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Israelis uneasy as Genscher flies off to Middle East



Israelis are becoming increasingly suspicious of Bonn's motives in the Middle East.

And the departure last week of Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher for a tour of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt has hardened this suspicion.

Has there been a change in West German policy on the Middle East? Under Chancellor Schmidt and Foreign Minister Genscher, Bonn has certainly been somewhat non-committal.

In his government policy statement on 18 January, 1973, Willy Brandt said Israel's right to exist was incontestable, while also stressing ties of traditional friendship with the Arab world.

On 17 May 1974 Chancellor Schmidt referred to continued interest in a just and lasting peace settlement in the Middle East. No mention was made of either Israel or the Arabs.

Was it caution or lack of interest? It is hard to say. Soon enough, however, such questions no longer arose. Bonn was increasingly involving itself in the Middle East.

Many Israelis now accuse Bonn of no longer being cautious enough. They say West Germany is intervening in operational Middle East affairs in an inappropriate manner.

What is more, Bonn stands accused of pursuing Middle East policies motivated primarily by oil interests. Are these accusations warranted?

On closer scrutiny the fact testify to markedly disparate trends even moving in opposite directions.

On Palestine, for instance, Helmut Schmidt and Hans-Dietrich Genscher initially took the lead, but have since ceded pride of place to the EEC, of which Bonn is, of course, a member.

Nowadays Herr Genscher, although still Foreign Minister in Bonn, is content to shun the limelight and let others come to the fore.

He has always sounded a more cordial and warm-hearted note in his references to Israel than Herr Schmidt, but he also played a major role in recent EEC criticism of Israel's policy on settlement in the West Bank.

Both men are in favour of good relations with the Arabs, including the hard-line Syrians, Iraqis and Libyans.

Yet both, albeit no longer with their original keenness of commitment, also back the Camp David agreement between Israel and Egypt as a first step towards a comprehensive settlement.

How is one to reconcile these two points of view? One must start by recalling the balanced Middle East policy called for by Herr Genscher in May 1974 and reiterated by Herr Schmidt in his second government policy statement.

Bonn Government spokesman Klaus Bölling recently used the term again to ward off Israeli criticism.

On 27 November 1975 in Jerusalem (and later in Bonn) Herr Genscher said a balanced Middle East policy was not a "policy of undifferentiated equalisation" or of "allowing that everyone was right."

What he did not say was that balance marks the end of a historically based special relationship with Israel.

This the Chancellor emphasised in his 16 December 1976 Government policy statement, saying: "We have good relations with both Israel and the Arab states."

Herr Schmidt nonetheless repeatedly came to the defence of Israel's right to exist and survive. He even refused to afford the PLO official recognition until it had recognised Israel.

But, as he told *Al Ahram* on 23 March 1976, he did not attach greater importance to Israel's right to exist than to the "legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

Unlike Herr Schmidt's level-headed assessment of the pros and cons, Herr Genscher's comments on Israel have always seemed to testify to a strong personal commitment.

"You can count on us," he told former Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon on more than one occasion, while in March 1977 he said in Jerusalem:

"This is a visit that comes as a heartfelt need on my part."

In Western Europe, France has long stood for a markedly pro-Arab line. For unity's sake, Bonn and other EEC countries have allowed the French outlook to be increasingly reflected in Common Market resolutions.

On 29 June 1977, for instance, the European Council, or EEC summit, upset Israel by endorsing the call for a "home country for the Palestinian people."

On 26 March 1979 the French Foreign Ministry issued, on the EEC's behalf, an extremely aloof assessment of the Camp David agreement, including a critical dig at Israel's settlement policy.

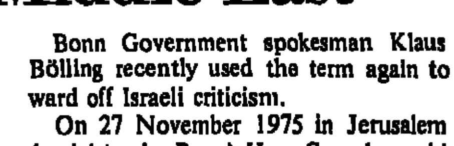
Bonn obviously chose to back down on this occasion, since Chancellor Schmidt that same day described the

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Bonn Economic Affairs Minister Otto Graf Lambsdorff (centre) in Bogota during his tour of Latin America. With him is his Colombian opposite number, Gilberto Echeverry Mejia (left) and the Bonn Ambassador, Hans Heinrich Nobel. (Photo: dpa)

Brazil defies local criticism to go ahead on nuclear deal



Brazil is to stand by its controversial agreement to buy nuclear power stations from West Germany.

An assurance of this was given to Bonn Economic Affairs Minister Otto Lambsdorff during talks in Brazil as part of his tour of Latin America.

The nuclear deal involves eight power stations together with allied uranium enrichment and fuel reprocessing technology.

Brazil's assurance comes despite economic troubles and domestic criticism of the deal.

It is Bonn's major trading partner in Latin America.

In Buenos Aires nuclear co-operation, a tricky subject, was also on the agenda.

In terms of Herr Lambsdorff's briefing the tour seems to have been a great success.

His various hosts fully appreciated the need he said there was for an international energy dialogue and co-operation in oil management by producers, consumers and developing countries.

Whenever he mentioned the difficulties the international economy was encountering in adapting to change, his hosts sounded a liberal, free market and anti-protectionist note.

Mexico and Venezuela favoured moderation in oil price policy. Venezuela and Brazil promised to carry on lifting import restrictions.

In bilateral ties West German investment was welcomed, and where dual taxation and investment promotion agreements did not yet exist, they were to be given serious consideration.

Oil supplies from Mexico and Venezuela could be stepped up if they were to prove interesting pricewise.

West German technology seems to be well in the running for mining and processing raw materials and developing alternative energy sources.

The countries Herr Lambsdorff visited seldom endorse free trade internationally, so their assurances on this score may perhaps be taken with a pinch of salt.

Yet even if they are left out of the reckoning a bonus still remains from which West German companies stand to benefit.

There can be no discounting the possibility of agreements being reached on wing German know-how in coal processing technology.

The Brazilians were definite that despite the domestic debate, with its emphasis on hydroelectric power, nuclear power will remain indispensable.

Even Mexico, a growing oil giant, does not discount the possibility that it too may need nuclear power at some stage.

As for environmental engineering, anyone who has seen Mexico's cities and industrial installations cannot fail to admit there is ample scope for it south of the Rio Grande.

Eberhard Wisdorff

(Handelsblatt, 7 August 1979)

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■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Technology tied up in tangled tapes



When 4,000 delegates from 130 countries spend 10 days conferring on science and technology in the service of development, their immediate, tangible output is tonnes of printed paper and kilometres of recorded tape.

Yet the UN conference in Vienna was but the tip of an iceberg. It took two years to prepare. Hundreds of national papers were circulated, outlining aims, priorities and recommendations.

The range of topics was so comprehensive it easily encompassed the entire gamut of development policy problems from expansion of scientific and technological infrastructure to data banks for industrial technology.

It included a code of conduct for technology transfer, appropriate technology (an extremely popular subject of late) and both national and international ideas to prevent brain drain.

These and many other topics were accompanied by enormous financial demands. By 1985 the rich countries were to contribute an extra $2bn to a special fund, and twice the amount thereafter.

The entire package was laced with pointed political comments and could only too easily turn out to be a political bombshell.

In view of unfortunate experiences at past world trade conferences the industrialised countries have, however, switched to a more flexible approach.

Ministries and agencies have busily drawn up tracts of one kind and another. Their political spokesmen came up with a succession of DM100m programmes designed to cast them in a favourable light.

So it required precious little power of prophecy to foresee that although there might be verbal clashes at the conference, talks would not break down spectacularly.

This is not to say conference strategy is heading in the right direction. One jumbo UN conference may be followed by another on an equally comprehensive topic, but that does not necessarily mean progress in implementing resolutions.

The Vienna conference was convened as a result of frustration on the part of the developing countries in view of the technological predominance of the industrial countries.

There can be no doubt the many specialist working parties were able to list criteria for more suitable technologies than the industrialised countries are currently transferring.

They will also have been able to show, calmly and reasonably, that market forces alone cannot control the process, which has to be acceptable from the viewpoints of both environment and society.

Governments in the industrialised countries are already wielding an increasing influence on research and development, both directly and indirectly.

But when it comes to identifying and mobilising social mechanisms and finding specific criteria for different forms of society in the developing countries, many governments in the developing world are no better judges than the multinational technology purveyors they pillory.

Countries that receive aid (and the elite that run them) are blinkered by prestige considerations ("rural is bad, foreign is good").

Those that supply the technology are in a rut too, thinking primarily in terms of profit margins. They make a good match, sad to say.

Unctad and the "Group of 77" hardliners have hitherto concentrated mainly on improving the transfer of highly-developed technology.

It could be that bodies such as the World Bank will in future be able to provide more alternatives based on hard fact, which would help to make political decision-making more objective.

If the Vienna conference were to have succeeded in no more than paving the way towards one or other of these objectives it could be rated a success.

Gerd Janssen

(Handelsblatt, 22 August 1979)

Delegation in Peking talks

Sporting exchanges, refugee problems in Indo-China and international terrorism were on the agenda when the Federal Republic's Interior Minister, Gerhart Baum, met Chinese officials in Peking last month.

Herr Baum flew there from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as head of a nine-man delegation. It was his first visit to Peking.

As Interior Minister he is responsible for sport, and he conferred with Wang Meng, his Chinese opposite number.

In addition to the official programme he visited historic monuments, such as the Great Wall and the Summer Palace.

In Kuala Lumpur, he opened two emergency hospitals for Vietnamese boat people donated by Caritas, the West German Roman Catholic relief organisation.

The two hospitals, costing about DM500,000, were set up at Pulau Tengah and Cherating refugee camps. They can handle about 10,000 to 15,000 people each.

Bonn paid the cost of shipping the equipment to Malaysia.

Hans Evers, chairman of the Bundestag sport committee, and August Kirsch, president of the West German amateur athletics association, were among the members of Herr Baum's delegation.

dpa

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 21 August 1979)

Angola finally accepts diplomatic links

Frankfurter Rundschau

Bonn and Angola have established full diplomatic ties. For policy reasons of its own the former Portuguese colony is the last independent African country to exchange ambassadors with the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Bonn Foreign Office and its African specialists will not have found it easy establishing normal diplomatic ties with Angola.

And they are no more than a first step (albeit and important one) in the direction of normal ties at all levels.

There were many and varied reasons why it was so difficult to establish normal relations.

One was certainly Otrag, a West German missile company that until recently had an enormous proving ground in neighbouring Zaire's Shaba province.

Another will have been the trouble Bonn's Africa policy regularly runs into when the problem of South Africa arises.

West Germany's flourishing economic ties with Pretoria are a thorn in the flesh for all Africans, especially Angola, which is virtually South Africa's neighbour.

And no-one should forget that Angola's present leaders have been particularly disappointed with Bonn's attitude in the past.

When they launched their struggle against Portuguese colonial rule in 1961 they had great hopes of West Germany's help (or at least understanding).

Neither came to much during the years of colonial warfare. Ties between Bonn and Salazar's Portugal were always particularly close, and Angola has not forgotten.

There were, in any case, repercussions. Angola was so disappointed by the attitude of the West as a whole during its fight for independence that it sought and found assistance in Moscow and the GDR.

East Berlin's advisers in Angola have almost certainly done their damnedest to dissuade Luanda from establishing normal relations with Bonn.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 17 August 1979)

Continued from page 1

Camp David agreement in a statement of his own as an "event of historic significance."

Open criticism of Israel has never been anything special in Paris. Herr Schmidt, by contrast, refused in December 1977 to join in public criticism of views held by the Begin government.

They were clearly views about which he was not enthusiastic, but he chose to maintain silence because otherwise the delicate current situation, as he called it, might be made even more difficult.

Later discretion of this kind was cast to the winds. On 5 June 1979 Herr Genscher made no bones about criticising the new Israel settlement on the West Bank.

This criticism was even more trenchant in a statement issued by the EEC Foreign Ministers on 18 June 1979.

For reasons of balance Bonn tried to incorporate in this declaration a positive assessment of the Camp David agreement.

But all France was prepared to accept was a neutral mention of the continued validity of the EEC declarations of 29 June 1977 and 26 March 1979.

Genscher in Middle East

German visitors seem, on the other hand, to be almost falling over one another in their haste to call on PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

First there was Christian Democrat Gerhard Schröder, the former Foreign Minister, then Free Democrat Karl Moersch, at the time Minister of State at the Foreign Office. But Herr Moersch only got to see the head of Mr Arafat's Beirut office.

Social Democratic leader Willy Brandt and Free Democratic defence spokesman Jürgen Möllemann, on the other hand, conferred with the aggressive PLO boss without being encouraged to do so by the EEC.

Does this amount to a change of course by Bonn on Palestine? If so, it has not come about in the immediate past. Herr Genscher has been extremely careful in his choice of words for some time.

This has not always been so. On taking over the Foreign Office in 1974 the Free Democratic leader began by backing the EEC call for implementation of the "Palestinians' legitimate rights."

But by 9 November 1975 he was referring to their "national sovereignty," followed on 27 November 1975 by "national identity" and on 19 March 1976 by a "state authority of their own."

From there it was but a short step to the Palestinians' right, as formulated by Chancellor Schmidt on 24 June 1978, to "arrange their own state organisation."

Bonn has never ventured quite so far at any time since, but as to its outlook on the PLO, the Chancellor's 2 February 1975 statement still holds good.

"As long as the PLO does not make a clear commitment on two points I cannot seriously consider PLO participation in the dialogue between Europe and the Arab world," Herr Schmidt said.

The two points were the State of Israel's right to exist within secure frontiers and a PLO waiver on acts of terrorism.

Bernt Conrad

(Die Welt, 22 August 1979)

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Setback gives Herr Scheel no thoughts of retirement

Walter Scheel, President of the Federal Republic until succeeded by Karl Carstens earlier this year, is 60 and is not thinking of retirement.

Herr Scheel would, it is well-known, have accepted another term of office if he could have mustered the necessary majority.

Politicians of his generation like Franz Josef Strauss and Helmut Schmidt, for example, are at the height of their careers.

His political career has been cut short before he has had time to accept the end of his political effectiveness. He will certainly want to play the part of elder statesman that has now been assigned to him.

However, he does not see this part as that of the wise man, elevated above the day-to-day blows of politics, dispensing words of wisdom to the nation. He did not play this part as President; even less will he play it in the future.

The tradition of presidential office and of those who retire from it is just emerging. The question is: what should a former President do? to what extent ought he to be politically active?

Herr Scheel answered this question simply and disarmingly when he said: "I will do what we politicians are always telling people to do — become involved."

Herr Scheel's friends and opponents will probably smilingly have interpreted this as a fine evasion of the issue, though it contains an argument. It scotches the idea that in a democracy there is a political office which transcends the system, which means that the holder has to abandon his political commitment and in particular his party political commitment for life.

No self-respecting republican tradition could wish for this.

Now that he has returned to the Free Democrats Herr Scheel has been described as a young politician. Compared with his three predecessors as President, this is true. But he is not the only one who, when his term of office was over, unhesitatingly returned to the party he came from. Theodor Heuss, after 10 years as President, said: "I am an old FDP man and no one in Germany should think I need to ask for permission before I say so." This was during the 1961 election campaign. Then Herr Heuss and the then party leader Erich Mende appeared together on posters with the slogan: "In his spirit, with fresh forces." Herr Scheel will not want to go so far next year. Nor would it be advisable, as the resultant controversy would hardly help the liberals.

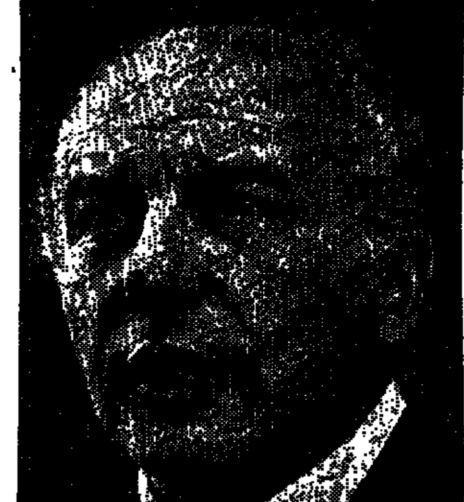
But Herr Scheel is right not to hide his political philosophy. The full state pension was not invented to "buy off" a former head of state's political commitment for life. The degree of reserve he shows is a matter of the *fingerspitzengefühl* of the man and his critics.

Herr Scheel has not broken any unwritten laws up to now, though of course he is certainly no political blue-eyed boy. He knows how much his popularity means to the FDP. When he says he will observe and advise in internal party processes, this means that he will influence the course of the FDP.

There are no votes on party executives; those who are present influence the decisions and the degree of influence depends on the authority of each individual.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher has a reputation as a master of tactics. In strategy Walter Scheel is his superior. Both know a great deal about practical politics. Working together as they are both determined to do they can achieve a great deal for the FDP.

Despite all the speculation, this does not mean the FDP is going to return to the side of the CDU/CSU. Herr Scheel, who once, with general secretary Flach, aimed at letting the Union dry out in Opposition and attracting liberal forces within the CDU/CSU to the FDP, has now reason to judge the party's strategic situation differently now from then.



Walter Scheel

(Photo: Sven Simon)

This applies especially if the liberal element in the Union should regain the upper hand.

Reduced to a simple formula, this means: a coalition with a CDU/CSU led by Ernst Albrecht would be even more dangerous than that with a Strauss-led CDU/CSU — and this is out of the question.

Herr Scheel will fight for militant liberalism with the FDP — a philosophy which promises to do the party's image good precisely in the present party-political landscape.

Internally, he need have no worries about his influence and if he is seeking a public political platform in the near future, he could do worse than standing as President of the Liberal International.

Martin E. Süskind

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 22 August 1979)

Strauss: delicate dilemma

Franz Josef Strauss, chief of the Christian Social Union, the Bavarian wing of the conservative opposition, has never been happy with election teams for the Chancellorship chosen by the Christian Democratic Union over the years.

The usual criticisms were that the teams were too big, not well-chosen in every position, and had too little expertise.

Now the boot is on the other foot, and the CDU wing of the opposition, is unlikely to be too enthusiastic about CSU plans for next year's poll.

Herr Strauss, as the Conservative candidate, now faces similar problems to those of the CDU candidates before him.

He must consider the wishes and peculiarities of the politicians he needs for a successful campaign.

And he has the poser of not being too harsh on those who opposed his nomination without, on the other hand, putting at a disadvantage those who fought for him.

The North will also give him a headache. Neither Gerhard Stoltenberg nor Ernst Albrecht show much inclination to team up with Herr Strauss. Neither of them wishes to exchange their present posts as *Land* Prime Minister for a ministerial post in Bonn. But a campaign team only stands a chance of winning if the voters are sure that the men and women they vote for are going to govern if that team wins.

The result of this dilemma is a proliferation of commissions: there are four and six man groups and the strategy commission, which is to be renamed.

An election campaign team and a ministerial team are to be formed. This is unlikely to do the trick. Herr Strauss will have to tighten up this confusing variety if he is not to merit the criticisms he used to make himself.

This means that the CDU leaders playing coy at the moment will have to be told that the Union can only win if they all pull together.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 21 August 1979)

Two distinct views on speed limit

A speed limit of 100 km an hour is still being considered for West Germany's autobahns. Or it isn't still being considered, depending on which lobby you believe.

At the moment, there is basically no limit, although there are certain exceptions under special conditions.

But the two opposing views represent more than just autobahn speeds. They are a clash between two different views on the energy problem.

It is a battle being recorded in two newspapers, and at the highest level.

Economic Affairs Minister Otto Lambsdorff told one newspaper: "A 100 km per hour speed limit is off the agenda."

Research Minister Volker Hauff told another: "The 100 km per hour limit is definitely still on the agenda."

The Lambsdorff approach represents the one relying on the responsibility of the individual backed by financial incentives.

The other sees the only way to save energy as using legislation and regulations.

For 39 year-old Herr Hauff, who within six years has risen from being the youngest Parliamentary Secretary of State to being the youngest government minister, the dispute with the Free Democratic Economics Minister also represents an attempt to come out of the shadows of research policy and put his name on the map where the real battles are being fought: in the field of energy and economic policy.

Herr Hauff can be sure here of the backing of Chancellor Schmidt, even though the latter may not agree 100 per cent with every one of his secret weapon's proposals.

Herr Hauff's catalogue of energy saving measures inclues the 100 km limit — which is largely symbolic in value — and a number of tougher measures such as taxes on major energy consumers, an energy code similar to the road safety code and energy supply plans.

This is not the first attempt by this economics PhD to attack the sacred principles of the free market economy with his unorthodox ideas — attempts which have earned him the disapproval of Herr Lambsdorff.

In summer 1978 just before the Bonn economic summit, Herr Hauff surprised the general public with the proposal to create an investment fund for environmental protection, improving working conditions, water supply and rational use of energy. About DM13bn would have been invested in this fund in four to five years.

Even then, this initiative, backed by Herr Schmidt and discussed with his former "boss", Minister of Finance Matthöfer, earned him the wrath of Herr Lambsdorff. However, the scheme was not a complete flop. Some elements of the Hauff paper are contained in the 1979 budget and medium-range financial planning.

Herr Hauff also planned to invite employers and trade union leaders, scientists and government representatives, to take part in a "technological action", precisely when Herr Lambsdorff's efforts to persuade industry and trade unions to get round a table in the Concerted Action were foundering. This peeved Herr Lambsdorff's ministry, who only gave up their opposition when Herr Hauff reduced the gathering from "action" to "dialogue" status and said that the role of state research subsidies would be at the centre of talks on the social risks of modern technology.

Herr Hauff, a descendant of the Swabian poet Wilhelm Hauff, is not merely being controversial or trying to make a name for himself in these before and behind the scenes disputes. Herr Hauff enjoys the special favour of the Chancellor, who often asks him for suggestions and ideas on awkward subjects, though he does not always agree with Hauff's views.

Herr Hauff is not just an "ideas man" and "mine-sniffing dog" for the Chancellor, as CSU leader and Chancellor candidate Franz Josef Strauss described him after the publication of his energy-saving proposals.

He has a healthy portion of ambition and in the long run is unlikely to be content with the Ministry of Research. During the Cabinet reshuffle last year, Hauff would have preferred to become Minister of Economic Co-operation, but he is more useful and valuable to the Chancellor in his present post.

After the 1980 general election, Social Democratic national secretary Egon Bahr intends to resign his post and Herr Schmidt is already increasing pressure on Hauff to succeed him.

Within the SPD, Hauff cannot be said to belong to any wing, though his sympathies are certainly more left centre than right centre. If Herr Hauff succeeds in this difficult business, his rise will continue.

Peter Jansen

(Handelsblatt, 17 August 1979)

■ MIGRANTS

'Time bomb' warning over foreign children



Begin helping migrant children now, or face the consequences, Germans have been warned.

"We have a potential time bomb on our hands," says Heinz Kühn, Bonn Commissioner for the integration of foreign workers.

In an interview with *Handelsblatt*, he said that fewer than a quarter of foreign children of pre-school age attend kindergarten and fewer than a third pass the elementary school leaving certificate.

"The most dramatic and crucial aspect of this problem is that there are nearly a million foreign children; 400,000 under six and almost 500,000 between six and 15.

"In the next few years there will be another half a million."

He said that only half-hearted measures had so far been taken to integrate foreign workers.

And if efforts to solve the problem in the next few years were not successful, "the consequences will be inevitable and grave."

Herr Kühn, former Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, is to give the Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, a report together with a list of proposals at the end of next month.

Herr Kühn said: "Measures must be introduced to encourage foreign workers to send their children to kindergarten. One step in this direction would be to abolish kindergarten fees; another, far more important, would be to persuade foreign mothers to work in kindergartens.

"Special classes for foreign children where they are taught enough German to transfer to regular German schools must be qualitatively improved but the amount of time the children spend in these classes must be reduced.

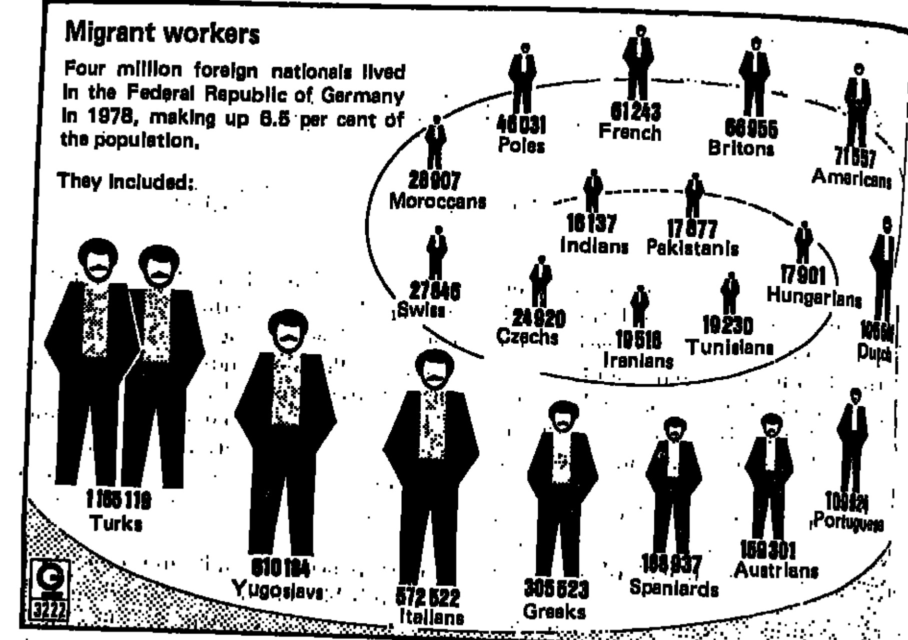
"Six-year preparatory classes inevitably end up being national schools and lead to the formation of ghettoes."

Emphasis would also have to be placed on the language and culture of the children's country of origin.

"We do not have the right to force German nationality on these children without parental consent and their own agreement. I would suggest that these children would have the option of becoming German nationals at the age of 18. We have a duty to teach those children who want to return home the language, culture and religion of their home countries so that they preserve their national identity."

Educationists would have to decide whether or not three hours tuition in the mother tongue two afternoons a week was the ideal method. Another possibility would be a combination of regular and additional tuition.

"We will need far more German teachers for the demanding task of teaching in integrated classes and also many foreign teachers to provide mother tongue teaching. These foreign teachers would be incorporated in the German teaching service."



Herr Kühn has proposed to the Prime Ministers of Baden-Württemberg and North Rhine-Westphalia that they should each found an institute at one of the universities in their *Land* where German teachers could discuss these problems with their foreign colleagues.

"They both agreed in principle to do so and asked the Ministers of Education to start preparing plans. Together these two *Länder* have more than half of all the foreign workers in this country and they should commit themselves to this and similar pilot projects to ensure that this problem does not become the object of party-political wrangles."

Are these proposals feasible in terms of finance and manpower? Herr Kühn says: "We need a few thousand teachers who have been prepared for this taks in their teacher training. We have got these teachers! For the smaller integrated classes we need more classrooms.

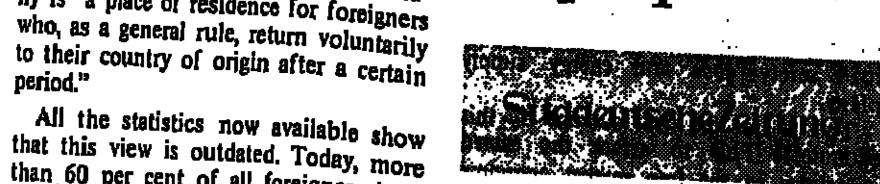
"This ought to be possible as the drop in the birth rate eases space problems. But we also need more auxiliary staff. We have got the manpower and the money, too, if we wish to spend it. And if we do not spend it on teachers then we will have to spend it on policemen and prisons!"

Does Herr Kühn regard West Germany as an immigration land or as a temporary home for the four million foreign workers? "Of course we are not a classical immigration country like Brazil, Canada or Australia. It is equally obvious that we have to bring about a change of consciousness among Germans, the realisation that we are going to need these people, the second and third generations at least, if only to avoid endangering our social security system, based on the idea of the contract between generations.

Herr Kühn says that the problem of integrating foreigners in this country is "perhaps the most important social problem of the coming decade."

Lutz E Dreesbach
(Handelsblatt, 15 August 1979)

Official attitude outdated as people don't return home



The Federal Republic of Germany is not a country for immigration, according to the principle laid down many years ago.

It is a principle that the Bonn Government and the *Länder* still work to.

Roughly, the principle is that Germany is "a place of residence for foreigners who, as a general rule, return voluntarily to their country of origin after a certain period."

All the statistics now available show that this view is outdated. Today, more than 60 per cent of all foreigners have been living in this country for more than five years, which means that according to the new law on residence they have the right to remain here permanently. And all the polls show that the longer foreigners stay here, the more they want to live here for good.

In 1974, the record year, there were 4.13 m guest workers in West Germany. In 1976 and 1977 this figure dropped to 3.95 million. Since then there has been a slight increase to 3.98 m (of which 1.9 m are workers, the rest their families).

There are many indications that despite the ban on the recruitment of foreign workers these figures will increase in the next years. In Baden-Württemberg alone, there are 79,000 guest workers whose spouses are still living in their country of origin. The children of 40,000 foreign married couples are still living in the countries of origin.

Statistics underline that in recent years West Germany has virtually become a country for immigration. Baden-Württemberg Prime Minister Lothar Späth, whose Land has the highest proportion of foreign workers (9 per cent) was the first to acknowledge this publicly recently.

Herr Späth's realistic appraisal is especially true of the second generation of foreigners — the children of foreign workers who were born here. Despite all their disadvantages, they often feel stronger ties to the country of their birth than their parents' home land, which they often only know from their parents' accounts and short visits. Often they speak German better than their mother tongue.

It is already clear that West Germany is going to face considerable difficulties with these foreign workers. One way of avoiding the problem would be to do everything possible to encourage foreign workers to return home — including giving them financial incentives.

Often however these families face integration problems when they return home similar to those they met when they came here. They have no guarantee of getting work: they feel, to a certain degree, alienated.

To avoid a potentially explosive social situation, the Bonn government and the *Länder* will have to take the integration of foreign workers more seriously.

Many guest workers wish to be integrated. The Baden-Württemberg Land Statistical Office has found that foreign workers are gradually adopting the behaviour patterns and structure of the indigenous population. The birth rate among guest worker families is gradually approaching the German rate. Foreign women marry later and are not prepared to have children between the ages of 25 and 30.

On the other hand, an Infratest poll on problems of foreign workers and their children shows that 60 per cent of West Germans asked had no objections to foreign workers staying here "as long as they wanted." This means that most already accept the guest worker as an immigrant.

Thirty four per cent of West Germans said it was "all right by them" if foreign workers were given the right to vote in local council elections.

Experts say that accommodation is a crucial factor in attempts at better integration. Most foreign families live in ghetto situations in the older parts of town. Compared with the the living conditions of West Germans, foreigners live in accommodation which is overcrowded, has poor amenities and is too expensive.

Foreigners do not invest much in improving their homes because they are often not sure how long they will stay here — an uncertainty which officialdom does nothing to diminish. More foreigners should be given the opportunity to rent state-subsidised "social flats".

As for the second generation, efforts would have to begin by increasing kindergarten places for foreign children. Another problem is in the schools, where large numbers of foreign children are taught together, which underlines their isolation. Apart from the inadequacies of the school system, there is widespread ignorance among foreign parents about the German school system and its importance for their children.

Then there is the dubious practice of some companies of only giving foreign youngsters apprenticeships if these youngsters agree not to attend day release classes.

To judge by the polls, the Bonn government the *Länder* and the parties would not have any difficulties if they changed their policies towards foreign workers. The electorate seem to be ahead of the politicians here.

Christian Schneider
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 18 August 1979)

■ THE LAW

Legal system wrestles with economic crime

Dieter Brenne, presiding judge at the Essen Criminal Court, holds a record: he is presiding over the longest fraud case in West Germany, the Stumm Trading Company collapse.

The case has been going now for 33 months — and the cause of the failure is no closer to being found than it was at the start of the trial.

Five face charges involving DM1.3bn. It is likely to take years more to resolve.

Trials over alleged economic crimes are always long and complex. In many cases the sentences passed do not match the spectacular nature of the prosecutors allegations at the beginning.

Many cases lapse because of a lack of evidence.

There are three major reasons for the difficulties faced by the German legal system in dealing with this type of crime:

- The concept has only been on the statute books for three years. It has not yet been defined in detail.
- In industry, the borders between skilful, but legitimate exploitation of the legal possibilities, and illegal actions are often blurred.
- Even those in highly responsible positions within a company can make mistakes. The collapse of a company is not necessarily the result of illegal actions.

Economic crimes have been dealt with in German courts for only 11 years.

In 1968, the then Minister of Justice in North Rhine-Westphalia, Josef Neuberger, gave the go-ahead for the setting-up of teams of prosecutors to specialise in economic crimes.

This followed a report which had concluded that "to deal with these typical crimes of intelligence"; there were no state prosecutors with sufficient knowledge of micro and macro-economics.

Today every *Land* has teams of specialist economic crime prosecutors. In Bavaria there are seven such teams, in North Rhine-Westphalia five.

In 1976 the Bundestag passed the first law on the combating of economic crime in which the term economic criminality first came onto the statute books.

Economic crime is defined as: offences against the share law, the limited company or cooperative law, the bank and stock exchange law, the customs, currency, tax and foreign trade law and also against the wine and foodstuffs law. Subsidy fraud, loan fraud, fraudulent bankruptcy, preference towards debtors or creditors are all classified as economic crimes.

The following indicates how fluid the limits between conventional crime and economic criminality can be: deception, usury and fraudulent conversion are classified as economic crimes if they require specialist economic knowledge.

Bonn Minister of Justice Hans-Jochen Vogel has now presented a draft second antieconomic crime bill widening the definition of economic crime to include: computer fraud, capital investment fraud and check and credit card swindles.

Herr Vogel and Inge Donepp, North Rhine-Westphalia Minister of Justice, are satisfied with the success in recent years in combating economic crime.

Herr Vogel says: "The prosecution of economic crime has brought better results recently." Frau Donepp says: "The setting up of specialist teams of prosecutors has brought the required results. Our experience is wholly positive here."

T he figures show that the number of cases coming before the courts is increasing. Five years ago only 40 per cent of cases investigated were tried in court. The figure today is 50 per cent.

But this has not altered the fact that half of all cases are lapsed.

The reasons for this are twofold:

- "There are often major cases in which state prosecutors have to sift through whole lorry-loads of documents." (The Ministry of Justice).

In the Stumm case for example prosecution evidence filled 650 files.

- "These cases are becoming increasingly complicatged, not least because of the illegal exploitation of business abroad — for example commodity futures and certain trade and tax possibilities such as depreciation companies." (North Rhine-Westphalia Minister of Justice Inge Donepp).

The result of all this is that according to a study by the Max Planck Institute only a third of all preliminary investigations into alleged economic criminals end within three months.

In 9 per cent of cases, the indictments are not ready until three years after investigations have started.

Once the trials begin, they often go on for years. Walter Eitel, state prosecutor specialising in economic crime cases, says: "Defence lawyers are increasingly adopting the tactic of bogging us down in procedural points. This means that judges and prosecutors must be patient."

In a case at Bochum for example, there were 335 incidents of legal delays within a few days. In another case, the accused objected 22 times to the jury on the grounds that it would not be impartial.

In the Herstatt case, the trial proper did not start for weeks because the 23 defence lawyers overwhelmed the court with procedural objections and questions.

The length of many cases and the often unsatisfactory sentences show how ambivalent the concept of economic crime is:

On the one hand: construction company owner Hubmann, who swindled almost 400 old people out of DM4.1m, got five years. On the other, a thief who stole DM434,024 from a department store safe got seven years.

Axel Glöggler argues quite plausible on the case of the Glöggler textile company: "If my father had been lucky and had another half a year, he would now be a universally respected entrepreneur."

He cannot understand why he is now facing charges because of his father's willingness to take an entrepreneurial risk — a risk which if it pays off wins many company owners the national cross for merit.

"The system of penal sanctions does not seem to be very effective in the case of economic criminality," says law professor Heike Jung.

Helde Neunkirchen
(Welt am Sonntag, 19 August 1979)

Case histories

Allegations of economic crime are on the increase. Among the best known instances are these. Two convictions have been reached, two trials are still in progress, and one allegation is being investigated.

Axel Glöggler

Augsburg company Axel Glöggler, 36, has been on trial since the beginning of February this year facing charges directed mainly against his father, who is accused of fraudulent conversion, deception and offences against the Share Act and of being co-responsible for the collapse of the Glöggler company.

Up to 1976, Glöggler was the biggest textile group in Germany. The father, Hans Glöggler, 69, disappeared in June 1976. He is reported in a recent newspaper as article as saying he has no intention of giving himself up. The trial is likely to last much longer.

Ivan Herstatt

For five years the Cologne state prosecutor has been preparing its indictment of Ivan Herstatt, 66, and seven of his staff. The 1192-page indictment accused him of 516 cases of fraud involving millions, which led to the DM1.2bn bankruptcy of the Herstatt Bank. The trial itself started in March. Each day of the trial costs DM15,000. One of the accused, Danny Dattel, 40, is unable to appear in court, on grounds of ill health. Herstatt, too, often sends doctor's certificates to excuse his absence. There is no sign of an end to the trial.

Georg Hubmann

Munich construction company owner Georg Hubmann, 66 managed to delay his trial for deception and tax evasion for four years. He produced 60 doctor's certificates in this time. After a trial lasting two months in which 90 witnesses gave evidence, Hubmann was sentenced to five years imprisonment.

He was found guilty of illegal transactions to finance his Wetterstein group. Hubmann specialised in building flats for old people. He swindled 394 pensioners out of DM4.1m.

Josef Kun

The state prosecutor spent five years investigating the case of Homberg company owner Josef Kun, 48, whose company, then the largest in North Rhine-Westphalia, went bankrupt in July 1973 with total debts of DM680m. The prosecutor was unable to prove fraudulent bankruptcy.

In September 1978 Kun stood trial on charges of active bribery. Procedural discussions dragged the case out for more than half a year. Kun was sentenced to 30 months.

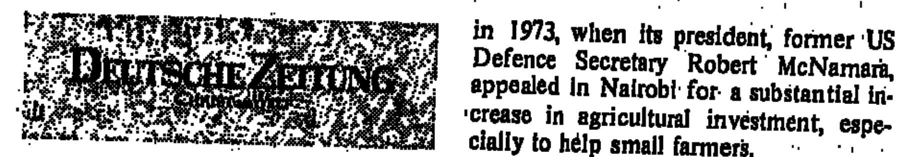
Ludwig Poullain

The state prosecutor has spent two years investigating the case of Ludwig Poullain, former boss of Westdeutsche Landesbank. He alleges that as he was in government service he had no right to accept an advisor's fee of a million deutschemarks. Poullain, on the other hand, says that this was expressly allowed in his contract. It is not yet certain whether the case will be tried. Münster Land Court has not yet ruled on the matter.

(Welt am Sonntag, 19 August 1979)

■ FOOD

No sign of predicted end to world hunger



Five years ago an FAO conference in Rome envisaged an end to hunger and malnutrition in the world by 1985. The situation may since have improved slightly, but there is no sign that this ambitious target will be met.

Agricultural output was to have gone up by 4 per cent during the current development decade; this, at least, was the figure experts rated indispensable.

Food production in developing countries has increased by a mere 3 per cent in the past two years. In view of the population increase this is a per capita improvement of only half a per cent.

In many countries the increase is below average, which means that population growth is outstripping their increase in food output.

Between 1975 and 1976, for instance, the population of the two dozen poorest African countries went up by 3.3 per cent. Forty-three such countries all over the world have been denoted famine-prone problem areas.

These 43 make up more than half the combined population of the developing world (excluding China): 1,000m people do not have enough to eat.

The International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington D.C., reckons the developing countries will need an extra 100 to 150m tonnes of foodgrain a year by 1985.

A number of countries will not have enough money to buy the extra food they need, so they will depend on food aid from the agricultural surplus countries in northern temperate zones.

Development bids so far have often been counter-productive for the rural areas where well over half the world's population live and for the majority of small farmers and landless peasants.

They merely accelerated the drift from the country to the town, leading to a rapid increase in the size of cities and their progressive transformation into enormous slums.

Industrialisation during the first UN development decade failed to eliminate hunger and poverty, which steadily increased.

The target then envisaged, that of meeting the basic requirements of marginal population groups on the brink of subsistence, was not met either.

The Green Revolution envisaged as a result of introducing higher-yield wheat and rice varieties has yet to benefit more than a handful of countries, such as India and the Philippines.

Even there it has only really benefited the favoured, better-equipped landowners and large farmers (large, of course, in relative terms).

It has certainly not eliminated the regional differences in earnings, let alone the imbalance within the agricultural community as a whole.

What the world hunger problem has so far lacked is a convincing programme to bring about a solution, especially as the fundamental causes are not primarily output-based but social and economic in character.

The World Bank began to pay serious attention to the problems of rural areas in 1973, when its president, former US Defence Secretary Robert McNamara, appealed in Nairobi for a substantial increase in agricultural investment, especially to help small farmers.

But even he had to admit there was no easy answer to the problems posed:

"Neither we at the World Bank nor anyone else has a straightforward answer to the question how improved technology and other production factors are to be placed at the disposal of more than 100m small farmers, especially those in areas where water is in short supply.

"We cannot supply a detailed answer to the cost question either. But we do know enough to get started."

This the World Bank did, providing cut-rate funds for programmes to help small farmers and integrated rural development projects (as in Colombia) and for social uses.

In November 1977 the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation decided to hold a 1979 conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

It has just been held in Rome, attended by delegations from 135 countries, 70 of which included their Ministers of Agriculture.

Four heads of state also attended, as did representatives of major international organisations.

It was the first time a UN conference frankly admitted that underdevelopment of the rural regions of the Third World is mainly to blame for hunger and poverty, unemployment and cities bursting at the seams.

Unequal distribution of land resources plays a major role, as does the powerlessness of the rural millions.

But it is only partly true to say that land reform alone can bring about an improvement in the world's food situation.

Land reform and agrarian reform in the more comprehensive meaning of the term are merely part of the strategy of rural development.

So the conference might better have been entitled Rural Development and Agrarian Reform and not vice-versa.

One farmer in three in the developing countries is a landless peasant. Another third are tenant farmers, many subject to the most dubious terms.

The developing countries only have about 600m hectares (1.5bn acres) of farmland at their disposal, so there is just not enough to go round.

There is no way in which every would-be farmer can be provided with sufficient land to make a living.

If this is already the case, what can be done to appease the hunger for land of successive generations, assuming population growth continues to snowball?

There is great injustice in the allocation of land, especially in Latin America, but one must be careful about generalising on agrarian law matters.

Historical, cultural and, to some extent, religious circumstances differ virtually from one country to the next. So agrarian reform must be tackled gingerly.

The country where agrarian reform has been most successfully implemented is Taiwan, where in 1949 a start was made in reducing rents landlords were entitled to receive.

As part of a process of gradual change state land was denationalised in 1951, and in 1953 land was registered in the names of the people who worked it.

The former landowners were allowed to retain at most three hectares (7½ acres) of irrigated land (or six hectares if the land was not irrigated).

In compensation they were issued shares in state industrial corporations.

The government issued instructions on how the land was to be tilled and what crops were to be sowed. Yields increased substantially.

The prices paid for farm produce were an additional incentive. But unfortunately Taiwan was taboo at the UN conference.

Each country outlined its own efforts in agrarian reform, and special attention was paid to the tenets outlined by Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere.

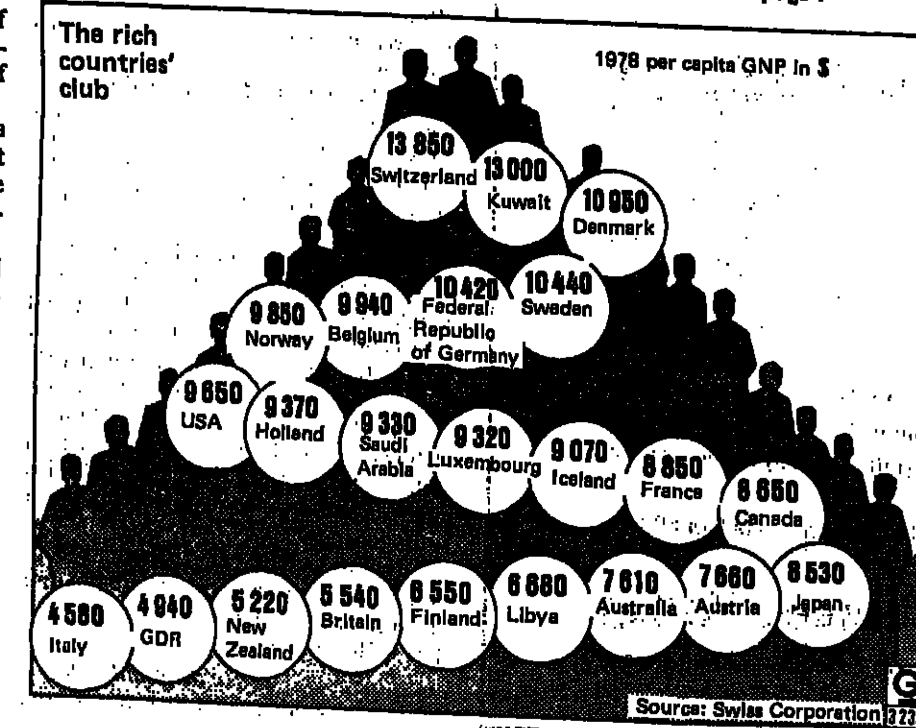
The main mistake developing countries make, he feels, is to transfer resources from the country to the town rather than vice-versa.

Rural areas ought to retain full control of their resources, while other economic sectors should hand over some of their relative riches to the rural areas.

"In practically all developing countries," he said, "measures of this kind will require a revolution in current methods of government expenditure and taxation."

State secretary Hans Jürgen Rohr, who headed Bonn's delegation, told the con-

Continued on page 7



Population explosion 'on the way'

Bremer Nachrichten

By the end of the century, betw 300m and 700m people will be livi in "absolute poverty," predicts the Wor Bank.

In its development report publishe this month it also says that at that stag

- A huge population explosion will ha gripped the world.
- About 40 cities in the Third World w have populations or more than 5m.
- Mexico City will have about 3(people.

The report sees little likelihood th solution to "absolute poverty" will b found.

However, progress could be mad i higher growth could be combined wi better distribution of income and a re duction in birth rates.

Bank experts reckon that the growt in population reached its height at th beginning of the 1970s. However, th working population in the developin countries would increase by more tha half a billion between 1975 and 2000.

"Given the already high level of un employment and absolute poverty we can not stress enough how great the need t increase productive employment an employment possibilities is."

The Bank says that more investment in and emphasis on agriculture and the development of labour-intensive small companies is essential if the numbe of jobs is to increase significantly, a more than 70 per cent of the workin population in countries with lo incomes and more than 50 per cent in countries with middle-range are dependent on agriculture. The World Bank has already concentrated most of its efforts on the development of agriculture in the Third World.

The report argues that an improvement of Third World countries' economic situations depends to a large extent on their getting better access to the export markets of the industrial nations.

This would bring advantages to the industrial nations: cheaper imports, faster growth of export industries, transferring know-how to developing countries, closer connection of international capital.

Rainet Offergeld, Bonn Minister of Economic Co-operation, said that countries with middle-range incomes at the moment only exported 5 per cent of their finished goods to countries with central planned economies, whereas the Western industrial countries bought about 64 per cent of their products.

He said that West Germany with its liberal trade policy did everything in its power to bring about independent economic growth in the developing countries.

The report calls on the developing countries to introduce active measures to reduce their birth rates, especially in Latin America and African countries south of the Sahara.

The World Bank is also worried about the developing countries' debts. Reduced repayment periods mean that many Third World countries find difficulty paying back their debts.

Gerhard Weck

(Bremer Nachrichten, 16 August 1979)

THE EEC

Institute survey of unemployment benefit systems 'attempts impossible'

Only one Common Market country, Belgium, pays unemployment benefits without time limit.

In Italy, the lump sum paid to the unemployed works out at less than two marks a day.

In Denmark the handout is up to 90 per cent of salary.

France is the sole EEC country to have completely private unemployment insurance.

These are among the findings of the West Berlin Economic Research Institute (DIW) which has just published a comparative study of unemployment benefits in the EEC.

The Institute, which has a high reputation for sound analyses of the economy, points out that the approaches to the question vary so enormously from nation to nation, with constant alterations, that satisfactory parallel analyses of the systems is impossible.

And the convolutions and ifs-and-buts complicate any deductions. For example, in Italy, the DM2 per day handout is, in practice, between two thirds and 90 per cent of the previous salary because of the many special regulations.

This study is one of the first of its kind and is especially important because of the high rate of unemployment in the community (it rose from 3.1m to almost 6m in the five years from 1974 to 1978, says the report).

In the constantly changing situation, an attempt has been made to paint the picture as it was at the beginning of this year.

The report says: "In principle, we can distinguish between two systems of payment: unemployment insurance and unemployment benefit or assistance. Unemployment insurance is insurance against loss of income resulting from temporary involuntary unemployment. In most of the countries dealt with in this study, this insurance covers all or almost all wage and salary earners. In some cases, that of Denmark for instance, it includes the self-employed."

Employees are entitled to benefits if they can prove that they paid contributions over a certain period. They are entitled to benefit if they are fully unemployed or on short-time working and at the same time willing to take on any reasonable employment offered to them (though definitions of reasonable employment differ).

The period for which benefit is payable is limited (the most important exception here being Belgium). The method of financing these payments differs (contributions, special taxes, other state funds). There is no test of whether the unemployed person actually needs the benefit, says the report.

Unemployment insurance may be voluntary or obligatory. However, voluntary insurance for the individual employee may sometimes be combined with more-or-less compulsory membership of a union, as in Denmark.

Some of the conditions for receiving unemployment benefit are waived in the case of unemployment assistance, for instance the requirement that the recipient should have been in employment for a certain time or the time-limits for such payments.

With unemployment assistance, the recipient's financial need is examined. Unemployment assistance is especially important in cases of long periods of unemployment and for groups not covered by employment insurance. Unemployment assistance payments are in most cases lower than unemployment benefit.

The simple distinction between insurance and assistance systems does not really do justice to the variety of systems in the member countries and often even within one member country.

In principle, the Institute can distinguish between lump sum systems in which people receive a fixed sum and proportion of income systems, in which a percentage of wages or salary is paid. Most countries have a mixture of both systems but in general there is a trend towards the proportional system.

There are major differences between countries in the degree of participation of professional groups, employers and employees in administration and in the formal, local and regional organisation of the system.

In some cases, special organisations have been set up (for example trade union unemployment insurance funds in Denmark) and in some cases a government ministry plays a part in the administration (e.g. Eire, Luxembourg). France is the only EEC country where the unemployment insurance system is private, but on the other hand France is the only country where unemployment benefit and payments from the state unemployment assistance scheme are made simultaneously.

There is a close relation between the task of providing financial assistance for the unemployed and of finding them new jobs. This is why most states aim at close organisational co-ordination between these areas. This means accepting that the relationship of trust between the authorities and the unemployed can be strained as these authorities must at the same time satisfy themselves of the unemployed person's willingness to work.

If there is no organisational connection, says the Institute, there must be close co-operation between the unemployment insurance and the labour exchanges. This is the case in the United Kingdom. The Manpower Services Commission and the unemployment insurance organisation are separate but they are both covered by the Department of Employment. In Belgium and West Germany both these functions are carried out by one organisation.

There are differences in the amounts available to the labour exchanges and thus in their effectiveness. In some countries, especially in Italy, the emphasis is still on the traditional function of finding jobs, whereas other labour exchanges, for instance in West Germany, arrange job-training, re-training and job-creation schemes.

As unemployment increases, the amount of unemployment payments and the length for which they are paid becomes crucial. Permanent unemployment in particular means that the social network has to be more effective and payments increased.

There are considerable differences of opinion about how high these payments should be though there is general agreement that the amount should be lower than the last salary, to encourage people to look for a new job.

The neo-classical school argues that if there is an increase in unemployment payments, there is an increase in the rate of unemployment. Empirical studies have shown that the possibility of earning more and being more motivated in one's work are important stimuli towards seeking a new job.

The length and the amount of payments differ dramatically. In Italy, for example, the lump sum unemployment benefit payment is only 800 lire (less than 50 pence) a day, whereas in Denmark it is up to 90 per cent of salary. However, this kind of comparison is invidious, because in Italy for instance there are many special regulations by which unemployed receive between two thirds and 90 per cent of previous salary.

All unemployment insurance systems with in the EEC have upper and lower limits on payments. In some cases, there are upper and lower limits for fixed sum payments.

When payments are earnings-related, there can be general lower limits, as in France, and upper limits. In West Germany, for instance, this upper limit is DM4,000, which means that if your previous salary was DM6,000 you still only get earnings-related benefit to DM4,000. When as in the UK and Eire, these systems are hybrid — lump-sum and earnings related — then payments must not exceed a certain percentage of previous salary.

Time limit on the payment of benefits is unlimited in only Belgium.

In France, too, certain payments can in principle be made for unlimited periods but the amounts decrease rapidly.

In Denmark unemployment benefits are paid for a maximum of 3 ½ years; in Italy, on the other hand, only for six months. However, in Italy as in most other EEC countries excluding Denmark the unemployment can draw unemployment assistance once they are ineligible for unemployment benefit. The time-limits for these payments also differ from country to country. In Italy the limit is 90 days (with the possibility of extension), in Eire, in West Germany and France there is no limit.

The rise in umemployment within the EEC has meant serious financial problems for social security systems. Expenditure rose rapidly, whereas income rose at a far slower pace and in some cases dropped. In theory, the state is only meant to give limited subsidies — but this principle could not be adhered to in recent years.

Unemployment insurance contributions — except in Denmark where a fixed sum is paid — are entirely or largely reckoned as a percentage of salary. The percentage for the sum of employers' and employees' contributions ranges between 0.25 per cent in Luxembourg and 3 per cent in West Germany.

This survey of the national systems underlines the considerable differences in organisation payments and financing The survey says that admittedly, there has been a trend towards greater uniformity of systems in recent years.

In some countries, certain groups of workers, (agricultural workers, youngsters starting work) have been included in the system and the payments to the most disadvantaged have been improved.

Nonetheless, we are still far from achieving the goal of co-ordinating standards of living in the EEC, which includes comparable unemployment benefits, it says. The systems in the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, France and the Federal Republic of Germany are more viable than those in the United Kingdom, Eire and Italy, where there are serious gaps for certain kinds of workers.

There are several possible ways of bringing the systems more into line. First of all, there should be as uniform a definition as possible throughout the community of who is entitled to benefits. This would create the preconditions for uniform inclusion in the system of unemployed youngsters.

Bringing the amounts of benefits and the periods for which they are payable into line throughout the community is more difficult because this involves changes in system of financing.

As for the payments themselves, the most that can be hoped for is an improvement in relative levels of payments, not in absolute amounts. The differences at the moment are considerable. Unemployment benefit in some member countries is higher than salaries in others.

The introduction of percentage systems as in the Federal Republic of Germany and Denmark should be made compulsory. The advantage here would be that there could be automatic adjustments for wage increases.

To protect those unemployed for longer periods it would be desirable for countries where there are time-limits on payments, especially the United Kingdom, Italy and Luxembourg, to increase this period to at least a year and/or to complement the unemployment benefit system by an unemployment system. The rate of unemployment assistance should be at least as high as the lowest rate of unemployment insurance.

Unemployment benefit policies should take into account the general labour context. There should be a closer connection to active labour market policies. Unemployment benefit organisations and work creation organisations should merge into one organisation.

The Institute report concludes: Improvements in bringing the social security systems more into line would not only bring us nearer the goal of comparable standards of living in the community. They would also help to reduce undesirable economic effects such as distortions in competition and migration of workers because of different systems of payment.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 August 1979)

Continued from page 6

ference that rural development and increasing food output in the developing countries were key features of West German development aid policy.

Nearly half Bonn's technical collaboration allocations were earmarked for agricultural development and West Germany planned to increase this proportion.

Agrarian reform and rural development were, however, first and foremost task for the developing countries themselves.

It was up to them to draw up the guidelines they intended to observe in social, economic and agricultural policy. Then, and then only, could aid from industrialised countries prove effective.

Heinrich Niederbörster

(Deutsche Zeitung, 17 August 1979)

■ TRAFFIC

North Rhine-Westphalia switches on the hopalight to slow drivers down

North Rhine-Westphalia has spent two years experimenting with a package of ideas designed to slow down traffic in residential zones of cities and towns.

The hopalight, one of Transport Minister Horst-Ludwig Riemer's bright ideas, has undergone trials in Kronenberg, an Aachen suburb.

Others have been put through their paces in 21 cities and towns in West Germany's most densely populated state, comprising 17m people and the Rhine and Ruhr industrial regions.

The hopalight is a flash device that warns motorists they are travelling at more than 35km/h (22mph). It is radar-operated and automatic.

But it is not a speed trap. The speed limit is the usual 50km/h, or roughly 30mph, in built-up areas. The flash is just a polite reminder.

Other ideas have included obstacles and king-size road signs of one kind and another to slow traffic down. Some have proved hearteningly successful.

Accident figures in the residential areas involved have declined markedly, especially the number of children killed and injured.

The two-year test series has cost DM7m. Herr Riemer now plans to spend another DM60m on slashing accident rates and reducing traffic noise and exhaust fumes in residential areas.

Scores of experts were commissioned to work out how motorists could be induced to drive more slowly, since road signs and publicity campaigns had not proved very effective.

Ramps of the kind known as speed breakers were built into road surfaces. At junctions and intersections roads were built up to the same height as pavements.

Street furniture was planned to make motorists slow down, with parking bays interspersed by groups of trees, benches and playground equipment.

Parking bays were arranged first on one side of the road, then the other, gradually converting a straight road into a slalom, or obstacle race.

Some streets were deliberately made narrower. In others the distinction between road (for traffic) and pavement (for pedestrians) was abolished.

A new road sign, not yet official, was introduced. It depicts a house and a ball-playing child and is painted larger than life on the road surface.

Concrete barriers were erected in residential streets to discourage through traffic. Motorists could no longer skirt traffic jams on main roads by driving "round the houses."

But residential streets were converted into no-through roads not only to discourage through traffic. Residents also tend to drive too fast.

Now everyone is forced to take it easy, slowly negotiating one obstacle after another, with occasional police patrols to hammer the message home.

Throughout the test period motorists and residents were questioned, speeds were checked and noise and atmospheric pollution readings taken.

Accident research specialists maintained a watching brief, and although traffic has not slowed down to the extent Herr Riemer might have liked, accident figures are down 20 per cent.

There has even been a 40-per-cent decline in the number of accidents in which road-users sustained minor injuries, while accidents involving serious injuries have been roughly halved in number.

An overwhelming majority of residents (88 per cent) are pleased with the change, and over half the motorists questioned had no objections in principle.

"There is definitely less traffic than there was, and it's slower," says Roswitha Stockebrand, a young housewife and mother. "This sort of thing really is much more important than building new autobahns."

Kornelia Wolf-Räune adds: "I feel the experiment is a good idea on the whole, but more thought must be given to some individual ideas.

"Staggered parking bays, first on one side of the road, then on the other, make it much too difficult to see what is going on ahead and create fresh danger."

In other words, not all the ideas tried out have come up trumps. Some will have to be dropped. Others could be improved. But one fundamental problem remains.

If motorists who know their way around town are unable to make detours because side-roads are blocked, main roads will grown even more congested than they already are.

But Transport Minister Riemer is undeterred. He feels his priorities are right. "Accident rates, especially accidents to children, were increasing at an alarming rate," he recalls. *Hans Wüllenweber*

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 21 August 1979)

The indispensable motor-car
Uses to which it is put in West Germany

10% Holidays
3% To school or university
11% Shopping
Other uses (Leisure, visits, trips etc.) 39%
18% Business
19% To and from work
Source: DIW

THE CINEMA

Eight-choice city complexes hit local shows hard

The advent of cinema centres with as many as eight choices of film has hit local cinemas hard.

New releases were once packed off to the suburbs after a month or six weeks in the city.

But now they tend to be merely swapped to a smaller cinema in the complex.

As a result, people are more inclined to pay the extra rather than wait, in some cases up to six months, for the film they want to see come to the local cinema.

And when they do use the film centres they often have the luxury of snacks and alcoholics drinks.

The Thalia cinema in Hamburg is one which has been hard hit. It has planned to show "Die Ehe der Maria Braun", "Ein Käfig voller Narren" and "The Deer Hunter", but had to postpone the showings because they were being shown by the premiere cinemas in the city centre.

The owner of the Thalia says; "There is nothing anyone can do about it. Premiere cinemas can show the films for as long as they want and local theatres just have to wait."

This practice among film distributors and cinema owners is not new. What is new is the length of time the inner city cinemas keep the films on their programmes.

The practice of transferring films to smaller cinemas in the complex and making maximum use of them obviously coincided with the advent of the cinema centre, an idea motivated by economic considerations. This saves on staff and on the use of technology. And the film only goes on general release when the smallest cinema is half empty.

One of the side-effects: if a filmgoer cannot get a ticket for the film he wants to see, he very often buys a ticket for another film in the centre.

Most owners of premiere cinemas have other possible methods holding on to box office hits. Usually they own entire chains of cinemas and cinema centres. The process of concentration in the industry is accelerating.

Of the 2,900 local cinemas in the country, 700 are owned by the big cinema chains. The largest of these is the Riech group, owners of Ufa and Olympic cinemas. Although it has more than 5 per cent of the cinemas, its turnover is probably 10 per cent.

Once cinema chain owners have finished with the films in the city cinema centres, they can often pass them on to their own general release cinemas in the provinces and suburbs. And again it is the independent suburban and provincial cinemas that suffer.

The big cinema owners are often suspected of using their monopoly muscle against their smaller competitors. Complaints have even been made to the Federal Cartel Office in Berlin that the chains have coordinated their tactics against distributors, discriminated against general release cinemas and abused their market strength.

The Cartel Office, though willing in principle to intervene, can do nothing because the allegations are toovague and, in the words of a spokesman, "no names are named." Nor can the guardians of competition do anything about the process of concentration — the amount involved is less than the Cartel's intervention level of DM500m.

As a result, the Cartel Office has only once dealt with the film industry — when American distribution giant Universal Pictures, a subsidiary of MCA, tried to buy the Olympic cinema chain, which has 50 cinemas in West German towns. The Cartel Office banned the takeover and Olympic cinemas were bought — by Riech.

The process of concentration can now go on quite merrily. Heinz Riech, from Freckenhorst in Westphalia has 160 cinemas, which makes him by far the biggest cinema owner in this country. Three others each have about 30 cinemas and five have about 20.

Film distributors have mixed feelings about this process of concentration. Manfred Göller, director of the Film Distributors' Association, says: "In the big cities it is a buyer's market." This means that the cinema owner can call the shots when showing times are being negotiated and conditions discussed.

Things are different when a distributor wants to premiere a film simultaneously in forty or even eighty towns. The fewer owners they have to negotiate with, the easier the planning is. There is no problem with extended runs for other successful films — the cinema centres just transfer them to its other cinemas.

Profits from films are thinning out for the distributors, because the number of seats in the cinema centres is often smaller than in the big cinemas they replaced. However, as no distributor — not even the Cinema International Corporation (CIC), distributors for Paramount, Universal and MGM, Twentieth Century Fox, United Artists and Warner Columbia — can afford to boycott one of the chains, the big-time operators are getting more and more of the cinema business. Again, suburban and small town cinemas suffer.

Of the 2,900 cinemas, 1,500 are still in towns with populations of less than 50,000. About 350 cinemas are in towns of between 50,000 and 100,000. Experienced observers of the cinema scene reckon that another 900 cinemas will close in the next seven to eight years, most of them in towns of less than 10,000.

In 1959, there were over 7,000 cinemas in this country and 10 years later there were still a good 3,700. Ten years ago, 68 per cent of cinemas were in towns of less than 50,000. At the beginning of 1979, this figure had dropped to 51 per cent.

In towns of 100,000 and more, the number of cinemas has increased, from 975 in 1969 to over a thousand. But the number of seats dropped: from about 500,000 in 1969 to just over 400,000.

A number of small cinemas managed to escape what seemed inevitable bankruptcy by joining together to firm the Small Cinema Group, Kino AG, in 1972. This was originally a club whose members exchanged films as a means of surviving against the big city owners.

These cinemas, most of them well outside the city centres, soon found a big gap in the market. They showed political rather than pornographic films, hard rock rather than hits, art films instead of kitsch. The 120 members of Kino AG, now a limited liability company, concentrate on young audiences.

The audiences at these cinemas can still see premieres. The Kino AG soon realised that they would need to set up their own distribution system if they were to compete. The Hamburg Film Purchase Company now has a stock of about 80 films, including the Mick Jagger film "Performance," "Anna Karenina" by Julien Duvivier and "The Conformist" by Bertolucci.

Werner Grassmann is co-owner of the Hamburg studio cinema Abaton, chairman of the Kino AG board and managing director of the distributing company. He says: "We regard these as excellent means of avoiding the blockade by the big cinema owners."

More and more independent cinemas seem to agree. Since the beginning of the year, three or four cinemas a month have joined the Kino AG.

Grassmann says: "The pressure is getting tougher." He reckons that by the end of the year the Kino AG will have about 150 members. It will then be almost as big as Riech's chain.

The Thalia cinema in the Grindelallee just around the corner from the Abaton does not have this option. Its owner says:

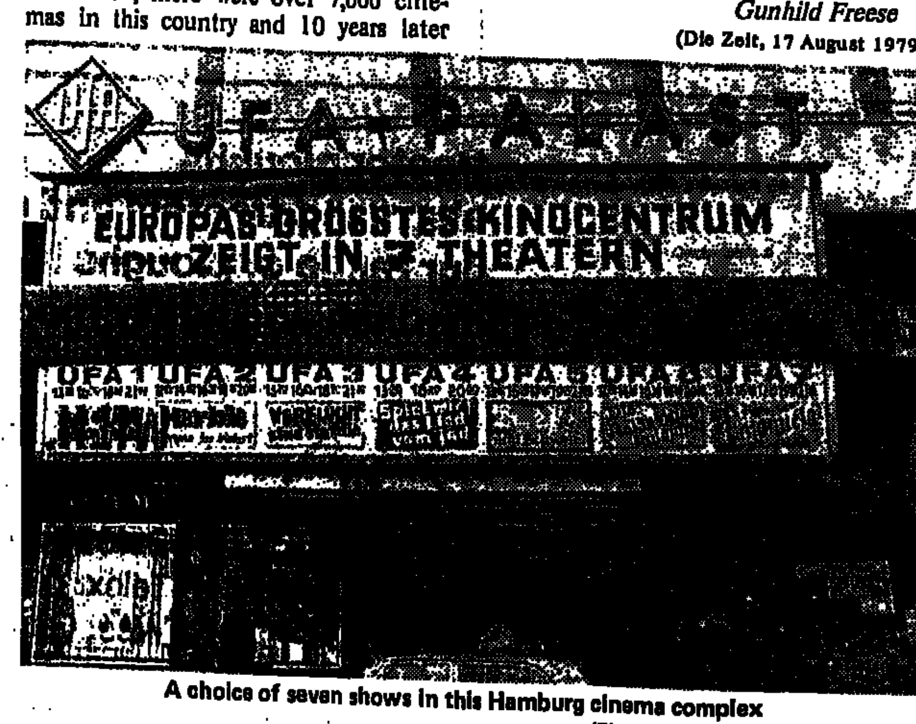
"They don't want us, we are too near the Abaton." He still expects to survive.

"Lots of students come here because we are cheaper than the city centre cinemas."

A final irony. Many West German films are financed from the State film subsidy fund, in to which all cinemas must pay a percentage related to turnover — even though these films never get shown in many smaller cinemas.

Gunhild Freese

(Die Zeit, 17 August 1979)



A choice of seven shows in this Hamburg cinema complex (Photo: Marianne von der Lancken)

An old-time team in a new season

Lübecker Nachrichten

The first internationally known pair of film comedians is making a screen comeback.

A selection of 39 "Pat and Patachon" works have been chosen as a highlight of the 21st Nordic Film Festival in Lübeck in November.

Pat and Patachon — comedians Carl Schenstrøm and Harald Madsen — were known in their native Denmark as Fy og Bi.

They appeared even before the films of Laurel and Hardy and Abbott and Costello.

Many of the films for the festival have not been shown in Germany before, and audiences here will find that the reasons audiences originally laughed at the pair have not changed.

The Danish Film Museum and Palladium Distributors, who produced the films, have provided a wealth of interesting information on these pioneers of film comedy.

The first documentation of Pat and Patachon's work will be published during the festival.

Dr Hauke Lange-Fuchs, one of the festival directors, who last year published the first major survey of Ingmar Bergman's work, was faced with the problem that writings on Pat and Patachon are stowed away in various archives in Copenhagen.

Someone tipped her off that Dr Marguerite Engberg was working on a history of the Danish cinema and was now researching the Pat and Patachon period.

So Dr Lange-Fuchs and Dr Engberg worked together to produce the documentation.

To keep the films in the main programme as up to date as possible, the film selection committee will visit Helsinki, Oslo, Stockholm and Copenhagen at the end of September and will not announce the short and documentary feature films to go on the programme till October.

After discussions and exchanges of notes, artistic director Bernd Plagemann, Hans-Gerd Kästner and Dr Lange-Fuchs will meet four other selection committee members (film critics in the Scandinavian countries) and make their selection on the spot.

The festival will also present a special programme to mark the 40th anniversary of the Danish National Institution of Short and Educational Films. Another special programme will mark the year of the Child by presenting recent Scandinavian children's films. Lübeck Cultural Office spokesman Kästner said that the artistic directors would also choose these films, which would be shown in the Youth Centre.

Another innovation this year is a prize for the best Scandinavian film, to be awarded by a jury of readers of the "Lübecker Nachrichten". This prize is not intended to encourage the festival to become a competition — which it never has been but as a token of appreciation by the people of Lübeck.

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 21 August 1979)

BOOKS

New thoughts on an old radical: but not as new as all that



Playwright Georg Büchner, author of "Danton's Death" and "Woyzeck", was an early revolutionary communist, according to Berlin lecturer Thomas Michael Mayer.

It is a view based upon the results of examining 14,000 pages of minutes from the trial of Büchner and others on charges of high treason in the 19th century.

Mayer said at a Press conference in Frankfurt that the new material he has unearthed means that we must radically revise our view of Büchner (1813—1837).

He also said that there was so much new material that, in fact, thorough research into Büchner's life "was only now beginning."

These are ambitious claims, but they are justified given the depth of the research. The real question, however, remains: does this research invalidate everything that has been believed about Büchner to date? Who is this new Georg Büchner?

Büchner was, in Mayer's words, a revolutionary early communist. He is not the pessimistic, fatalistic writer or radical, bourgeois writer he has often been seen as. Mayer gives away the motive for his study when he says he wants to reclaim the early communist Büchner for "the modernised tradition of the New Left."

Mayer rejects attempts to interpret Büchner out of this tradition. And here he is right. No doubt, socially critical and even revolutionary spirits will find much to identify with in the Hessian conspirator of 1834, a wanted man who was forced into exile.

Mayer's view of Büchner is clearly based on marxist premises. Marx, Engels and Lenin provide the criteria for historical and political analysis. Naturally, Büchner's early communism ranks high within this framework.

Mayer exhaustively analyses the *Hessischer Landbote* (The Hessian Messenger), agit-prop of the year 1834. He tries to show how far one of the fellow conspirators, Butzbach schoolteacher Weidig, edited the text and changed it. Büchner's original text has been lost and can no longer be reconstructed. However, it seems probable that the first half of the text is largely Büchner, while the second is largely Weidig.

Mayer says that it is wrong to regard "Danton's Death" as a document of resignation and fatalism. On the contrary, it contained political criticism of the representatives of the revolution, criticism in particular of Robespierre, who failed to improve the miserable plight of the people. Furthermore, the confrontation between Robespierre and Danton reflected the opposition between ascetic spiritualism and sensuality, an opposition expressed in Heine's work in terms of Greeks and Nazarenes.

Are these arguments new? Are they convincing? It has long been claimed that Büchner was influenced by early communism. Thomas Michael Mayer's older namesake, Hans Mayer, described the revolutionary tradition from Babeuf to Blanqui as an important source influence on Büchner's politics in a book published as long ago as 1946.

We now have a few more suppositions and some more proof.

It has long been known that it was impossible to extricate the essential Büchner from the body of the text. Even Thomas M. Mayer can make little real headway here, though he does bring some clarification.

His interpretation of "Danton's Death" seems more debatable. This play describes not only the misery of the people but also their political incapacity. The confrontation between Robespierre and the Parisian plebeians peters out after a few scenes. Mayer concedes this, so it is difficult to see how this conflict can be regarded as the central theme of the play.

It is correct, but hardly new, to say that Büchner identified with Danton. However, it was necessary to stress this fact in view of certain modern interpretations of the play which Mayer severely criticises. Politically motivated critics of Büchner said that the play regarded the sensual Dantonists as "representatives of an upper class hostile to the people" and that Büchner's sympathies therefore lay with Robespierre's aesthetic Jacobinism.

The marxist Mayer nonetheless considers that a "cardinal weakness" of Büchner's plea for materialism and sensuality is that it takes Danton as an example — Danton, a moderate bourgeois revolutionary.

Mayer says little of Büchner's fatalism ("we are puppets manipulated by unknown powers.") Nor does he mention that the guillotine at the end of the play suggests the senselessness of the killing. Mayer does not believe it legitimate to use the famous "fatalism" letter in interpreting "Danton's Death." His argument here is chronological: this letter was written in March 1834. The view that it expresses despair of history is contradicted by Büchner's almost simultaneously working on the *Hessischer Landbote*.

Mayer interprets Büchner's famous remark that he is "annihilated by the cruel fatalism of history" as a despondent reaction to the failure of the bourgeois revolution, which did not benefit the people.

He argue that Büchner "overcame" this phase during his work on the *Landbote* manuscript. He says that the "pessimistic anthropologisation" of the revolution ("the individual only foam on the wave, greatness a mere accident") is irrelevant in comparison.

It is perfectly possible to interpret matters thus, but the interpretation does not convince. His letters, the comedy "Leonce and Lena", and Danton's fatalistic remarks show that pessimistic tendencies and the conviction that men were completely unfree was not just a fleeting response to reading Thiers' history of the revolution.

Not even the emphasis on Büchner's early communist convictions can efface the impression made by these remarks.

Mayer clearly tends to level out contradictions, i.e. to harmonise everything to suit his political viewpoint. He simply cannot imagine a social revolutionary and conspirator against grand dukes and profiteers who was also a fatalist. Logically, it is difficult to reconcile these aspects. But perhaps we must simply decide to accept Georg Büchner as a human being with human inconsistencies.

To sum up: the literary sensation we were promised was unfortunately not to be. What we have got is a new and absorbing political interpretation of Büchner. Even more important is the wealth of detail Mayer brings to Büchner's biography in a 70-page chronological table.



Georg Büchner (Photo: Interpress)

Mayer makes his points in a very abstract form and his syntax is unnecessarily complex. It would have improved the intelligibility of the work if he had used more sub-headings. His claim that Büchner research begins here proves to be pretentious exaggeration.

His criticism of earlier interpretations, though often just, is often too strident in its tone. He slams Hans Mayer for "sloppy textual analysis", says that Walter Hinck "makes a fool of himself." On one occasion he generously concedes: "This is a more or less correct view." Here speaks the arrogance of the specialist.

It is to be hoped that in his future books — he plans at least half a dozen — Mayer will make life easier for the reader. In this respect at least he could learn much from Hans Mayer. However, this first major publication clearly proves that he has a stimulating and exciting contribution to make to our knowledge of Büchner.

Jürgen Jacobs

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 14 August 1979)

Thomas Michael Mayer: Georg Büchnor. **Sonderband I/II der Edition Text + Kritik. Munich 456 pages. DM42.**

The man who made a reporting style

Kisch was known as the Rushing Reporter, and that is the name of one of his books.

He was born plain Egon Kisch, the son of a draper, in Prague in 1885. He added the Erwin as an adult.

Kisch has been dead for more than 30 years, but he must still be regarded as a remarkable and happy exception in German journalism.

Cologne publishers Kiepenheuer and Witsch have now produced a two-volume selection of his journalism — an ideal introduction to Kisch's work but interesting also for those already familiar with it. Here, we discover entire new worlds: Prague at the turn of the century when Kisch was starting his career as a reporter for "Bohemia"; the Kaiserreich; the Weimar Republic; then Russia, Asia and America.

The publishers have entitled this selection "Nothing is More Exciting than the Truth." This would be a tailor-made title for Kisch if it did not create the false impression that the truth writes itself, that it is one of those tales that life writes, as they say.

Kisch saw things differently: "I defined to myself what a report was. It is a form of expression, perhaps even an art form, though only a minor one." He wrote this at the beginning of his career. "And he then went on to make the minor art of the report into a major art form.

Kisch had a gift for observation. Many have this gift. Kisch not only wanted to describe the world, he wanted to change it — so do others. And Kisch could write well, but so can many others. The point was that Kisch could do all three. He was the master of all styles of reporting, which he developed further.

Whether writing of the misery of the Prague *lumpenproletariat*, the American way of football, attempts at psychiatric reform in Belgium or an execution in China, Kisch was always perceptive and pithy in his description.

In his early years, Kisch's ambition was to be an impartial witness and to give impartial testimony. He could in practice never be as impartial and disinterested as he wished, as became evident when the Nazis burnt his books in 1933.

In an autobiographical sketch he described how his first story was an invention. This episode was, typically, one of the few Egon Erwin Kisch invented.

Michael Bengel

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 18 August 1979)



Egon Erwin Kisch (Photo: A + W)

Egon Erwin Kisch: Nichts ist erregender als die Wahrheit. Reportagen aus vier Jahrzehnten. **Edited by Walter Schmieding. Two volumes, in cassette. Kiepenheuer und Witsch, Cologne. 603 pages. DM48.**

■ MODERN LIVING

Children's view on their own upbringing often more valuable than parents'

Nordwest-Zeitung

Parental influence over children is far more involved and complicated than most simple generalisations about the subject would suggest.

For example, we continually hear that mothers have far more influence on both education and upbringing because they have more time — if they don't go to work.

(Perhaps one reason for this is that polls tend to ask mothers about these questions rather than fathers — or even the children themselves).

But some recent analyses from the child's point of view shows that the father's role is as important as the mother's.

Also, it is shown that the way children see their own upbringing often casts more light on their likely course of development and pattern of behaviour than the parents view.

This is one of the results of a representative poll on the development of independence and initiative involving 272 children between eight and 14 and the same number of parents.

The precondition here was that father and mother agreed basically on methods of upbringing and did not attempt to limit their children's scope for decisions. The fact that parents then played different roles did not worry the children.

Scientists described the role of the mother as one of "participatory assistance" whereas the father's was one more of considerateness. Children regarded their fathers as more assessing their actions but they accepted it just as much as the more active support their mothers gave them.

In this poll conducted jointly by Professor Klaus Schneewind of Munich University and psychologist Peter Pfeiffer of Trier University it turned out that parental empathy, especially consideration, tolerance and support, were decisive factors in the development of independence and initiative among children.

If parents persisted in imposing their point of view on their children, this could lead to children being unable to or scarcely able to act independently.

Attempts at enforcement by their mothers are not regarded as authoritarian behaviour as long as they do not oppose the children's motives and take their situation into account. Children credited their mothers will with a high degree of understanding, tolerance and empathy, and clearly perceived attempts by their parents to influence them.

Girls in particular were sensitive towards their parents' attempts to influence them. Sons regard tolerance and considerateness as more important factors for independence and initiative whereas daughters rated appeals to their sympathy. Sons and daughters here reacted differently to the same behaviour by parents.

This separate study of relations between mothers and sons, fathers and sons, fathers and daughters and mothers and daughters confirmed traditional expectations in that daughters tended to adopt their mother's methods of education and sons to be more influenced by their fathers.

The scientists found that the weakest contribution towards independence and initiative was clearly to be found in fathers' treatment of daughters.

The poll also showed that eight to 14 year olds are capable of judging their parents' educational attitudes and the way they put these attitudes into practice highly critically. The analysis showed that even a consistent educational system in which parents explained every measure did not mean that children saw these measures in the same way as their parents.

Dr Renate Mreschar

(Nordwest-Zeitung, 11 August 1979)

Fathers told: take interest early – or face rejection later



Fathers should show an intensive interest in their children right from birth, otherwise indifference or even rejection could result in later years.

This is one of the preliminary findings of Professor Hanus Papousek, of the Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry in Munich. He is conducting a major research project into the role of the father in bringing up children.

The project is being sponsored by the Volkswagen Foundation.

Communications between the child and father are being analysed by using special film, video and tape recordings.

Professor Papousek says this refined technique can pick up the most subtle and fast reactions that cannot be observed by the naked eye or established by questionnaire.

He says that the analysis of mother-child interaction has already shown that instinctive reactions play a vital part in communication.

Among these reactions are trying to catch the baby's eye and rewarding it for its response with a typical greeting, the change of tone, rhythm and language melody when the mother speaks to the child. Professor Papousek is working on the assumption that these behaviour patterns also play a part, though a more limited one, in contact between father and child.

So far, little is known about the role of the father. But many studies since the war have shown that children who did not have close attention from their fathers at an early stage had later difficulties identifying with the male role. They also had less stable moral attitudes.

The Max Planck scientists hope to find out what effect the scarcity of male adults in kindergartens, play schools and primary schools has on children.

On the basis of his observations to date, Professor Papousek believes that the behaviour patterns the child learns from the mother are also to be found in the father and develop more intensively the more time the father spends with the baby.

The father also as a number of sexually specific behaviour patterns which complement the role of the mother.

He says: "The baby learns different modes of behaviour from the father and the mother and from the first interactions develops different ideas and expectations in relation to women and men. This can later influence his role identification and his later partnerships."

The frequent lack of an intensive father-child relationship was one of the causes of the increasing number of cases of child maltreatment in this country, which were possibly due to a "barrier of mutual incomprehension" between father and child.

Jörg Adrian Huber

(Kieler Nachrichten, 18 August 1979)

Heroin on the cheap – lots of it

Frankfurter Neue Presse

Heroin has never been as cheap and plentiful as it is now. The pure form of the drug has replaced hashish as the "beginner's drug" and the number of addicts in the Federal Republic rose from 40,000 to 45,000 in the 18 months to the end of June.

According to Bonn Ministry of Health spokeswoman Iris Schürmann-Mock, dealers are now harder to catch because they are more mobile.

She said, in giving a departmental summary, that during last year relatively weak forms of the drug from South East Asia were displaced by stronger, purer forms from the Middle East.

This had resulted in more drug deaths.

The only hopeful sign was that 30 per cent of addicts given withdrawal cures managed to break the habit permanently.

Frau Schürmann-Mock said that at the moment the average age of regular drug takers in this country was between 18 and 25. Pushers had now adopted the practice of giving their mainly juvenile customers heroin to "fix" with. If they were afraid of the needle, they were told to sniff it. After sniffing heroin four to six times, the youngsters were generally hooked, completely dependent on a fix.

In 1978 the German customs confiscated 115 kilograms of heroin as against only 24 kilograms in 1977. By comparison, only 3,264 kilograms of hashish and marijuana were confiscated in 1978 as against 5,103 in 1977. These figures did not include the amounts confiscated by police on the home market. It was now far more difficult to catch pushers because the market had been thoroughly restructured.

It had been decentralised and there were no major regional centres.

Sales were mainly from door to door.

In the first half of this year there were 307 deaths throughout the country. Hesse headed the table with 65.

Both Bonn and the *Länder* fear that the figures will get worse because:

- The price has dropped from DM400 to DM100 a gram
- Supply is plentiful
- Access is easy
- The current product is strong

The Ministry is relying on constant improvement in anti-drug police methods and on prevention. It wants more co-operation from parents.

Many parents think it is enough to send their children along to the GP when they find they have been on heroin. Frau Schürmann-Mock says: "This is wrong. They need the help of professionals."

The Ministry has now launched an information campaign aimed mainly at parents and teachers, showing where the danger lies, how to recognise symptoms of addiction in the early stages, where to find help and, above all, how to prevent addiction.

Frau Schürmann-Mock stressed that in the long run success in the fight against addiction could only be achieved if schools, parents and youth organisations co-operated.

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(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 11 August 1979)

■ HEALTH

Factory Act's far-reaching boost for medical care in industry

The number of company doctors has risen by 400 per cent in four years to 12,000.

This is one of the results of a reform law which came into effect five years ago called the Factory Doctors, Safety Engineers and Safety Workers Act.

By general consent of employers, doctors, unions and millions of workers, this piece of legislation has advanced industrial medicine by 10 to 15 years.

Rarely has a reform law of the Social Democrat/Free Democrat coalition worked so well.

Figures published by the National Medical Council in Cologne show that two thirds of all workers in this country receive regular medical attention at work from 12,000 works doctors either employed by the companies or working freelance.

The efforts of politicians and doctors are now concentrated on ensuring medical care at work for the remaining third of all workers, most of them in small and medium companies.

In some sections of industry there has been an increase in fatal accidents at work and certain occupational illnesses, despite the improvement in medical care. Deafness caused by high noise levels is an especially serious problem. It is the number one occupational illness among workers in this country.

A report by North Rhine-Westphalia Labour Minister Friedhelm Farthmann for the Land parliament in Düsseldorf says that if a worker has to retire early because of deafness this costs the economy DM145,000.

When the law was passed in 1974, the medical profession protested that it could not meet the requirements. Companies too expressed doubts about meeting the requirements in the foreseeable future.

However, with obvious elan they set about introducing occupational medical services in factories of a certain size and introducing or improving the requisite safety measures. The medical profession doubted whether enough doctors versed in occupational medicine could be found. At the time, there was still a shortage of doctors.

The Accident Prevention Regulations for Company Doctors were developed from the 1974 Act. Today the National Medical Council, which has often disagreed with the Bonn Government since 1969, writes: "The Accident Prevention Regulations for Company Doctors, thanks to the flexibility of the act and pragmatic training and in-service training regulations for works doctors, has largely been put into practice."

Today, there are about 12,500 doctors qualified to work as works doctors according to the Act. This would have been considered impossible in 1974. The number has increased rapidly in the past two years especially. Major companies now all have works doctors on their payrolls. Many firms also have contracts with Occupational Medicine Centres, of which there are 143 in the country. They provide treatment for more than 530,000 workers in various companies.

Many employers decided to use the services of freelance doctors. Doctors who have specialised in occupational medicine are allowed to practise freelance as works doctors.

Of course there are inconsistencies. In the construction industry, for example, all companies are obliged to provide the services of a works doctor, but in road and railway companies this only applies if there are more than 200 employees.

There are still politically motivated wrangles between the unions on the one hand and the companies and doctors on the other. The unions want the occupational medical service included in the co-determination regulations and want the right to see the notes of the works doctors. Employers and doctors are against this.

The National Medical Council wants complete professional independence and professional discretion for doctors. The duty of works doctors is to ensure that damage to workers' health at the place of work is prevented by all possible means.

Industrial injuries

Fatalities at work in the Federal Republic of Germany

1949 8162 · 1955 8233 · 1962 7450 · 1971 6085 · 1978 4320

No. per 100,000 persons gainfully employed: 45 · 38 · 30 · 27 · 18

In North Rhine-Westphalia at least deafness caused by noise, skin diseases, silicosis and silico-tuberculosis among workers are on the increase. Herr Farthmann's report shows that the number of illnesses caused at work such as damage to the meniscus, and tendons, circulatory problems caused by vibrations is going down.

Infectious diseases were on the increase, according to the report.

Herr Farthmann's report says that fatal accidents are particularly likely to occur in the building industry, the steel industry and the engineering industry.

In North Rhine-Westphalia alone, 78 workers died in these industries in 1977 as against 58 in 1975. Technical safety experts, he said, would have to step up measures to prevent accidents.

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 14 August 1979)

■ HOUSING

High-rise living: a social villain or just a victim of bias?

The problem of crime on high-rise housing estates has been exaggerated out of all proportion, a seminar in Hamburg has been told.

Social worker Erhard Petschke, who runs a local youth club, said that criminal statistics compiled in these estates often turn out to be no more than high jinks which people and police would merely shrug their shoulders at if they happened in "higher-class" areas.

"Nothing serious has happened here for ages," he said (the seminar was in a bar at Osdorfer Born, a high-rise estate).

However, at another seminar on the subject, directly opposing views were put forward. American specialist Oscar Newman said on the North Sea holiday island of Sylt that detailed surveys had "proved beyond doubt" that the crime rate increases with the number of storeys in a building.

At the same seminar Viennese architect Roland Rainer went even further. On the question of health, he said: "Maybe only 57 per cent more cases of illness occur in high-rise housing than in single-family terraced homes, but they notch up 800 per cent more neuroses."

Herr Petschke told the Hamburg seminar that 16,000 people live on the Osdorfer Born estate.

More than three out of ten are juveniles. He referred to a police patrol car as it cruised past:

"They just drive round to keep an eye on the place. Nothing serious has happened here for ages."

What, then, has happened to the 40 per cent of juvenile delinquents who are supposed to people high-rise housing estates (more than twice the urban average)?

He says: "There only needs to be a group of teenagers standing at a corner for the police to come round and ask whether the smokers are over 16.

"If they are not, a note is made of the offenders' particulars and referred to the local authority youth department to see whether they have a record.

"If they haven't, the note is not simply thrown into the wastepaper basket; a file is opened. And only another entry or two for minor offences are needed (such as dangerous behaviour with fireworks at New Year or unscrewing someone's moped reflector) for the youngsters to end up in court."

Criminal statistics compiled in housing estates often turn out to be no more than facts such as these, he says. High jinks that people (and police) would merely shrug their shoulders at in higher-class residential areas are here escalated to court cases.

Sociological surveys of police behaviour lead to an interesting conclusion: police officers who themselves hail from the lower rungs of the social ladder tend to be harder on their own class than they are on the moneyed middle classes.

Police also behave in a special way towards people who live in high-rise housing. The causal or associative chain is easy to follow.

Housing estates usually mean high-rise blocks. High-rise tenants are often people who live in subsidised housing because, to quote the official phraseology, their personal and economic circumstances are such that they are unable to find suitable housing on the free market.

So, back to square one: police tend to behave in a special way towards high-rise dwellers. Herr Petschke cites examples that could equally well apply to any large city.

Cases such as he mentions are part and parcel of the daily routine in West Berlin's Märkisches Viertel and Gropiusstadt; in Neue Vahr, Bremen; Nordweststadt, Frankfurt; Steilshoop and Mümmelmannsberg, Hamburg; and Neuperlach, Munich.

This is how high-rise housing comes to be associated with a high crime rate. Aggro, we are led to believe, builds up automatically in "impersonal concrete silos," says Herr Petschke.

Banner headlines suggest themselves. "Crime Flourishes in High-Rise Housing, Criminologist Blames Town Planners for Increasing Brutality," writes *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. "Criminality the Result of Town Planning," proclaims *Frankfurter Rundschau*.

But the Bundeskriminalamt, or Federal CID, has decided to commission research to see how much truth there is in the assumption.

Mr Newman told the Sylt seminar that blocks 13 or more storeys high are said to have a three to seven times higher rate of larceny and breaking and entering than two- or three-storey terraced housing, for instance.

As a layman one can but wonder, given the unanimity of presumed experts on the subject, that planners do not simply build lower if illness and crime rates will be cut as a result!

There are indeed architects who say social and medical problems could be solved by reverting to single-family detached homes.

People start by building houses, then the houses start shaping people, they



say. Thus traditional-style houses will breed small, intact families.

Jörg Jordan, Wiesbaden's senior town planning officer, is sceptical. Surveys so far, he reckons, all indicate that social problems, not architectural ones, are to blame for high-rise dwellers' social conflicts.

Social problems move into the housing with its tenants, not vice-versa, he claims. So a social policy solution is what is needed, not an architectural one.

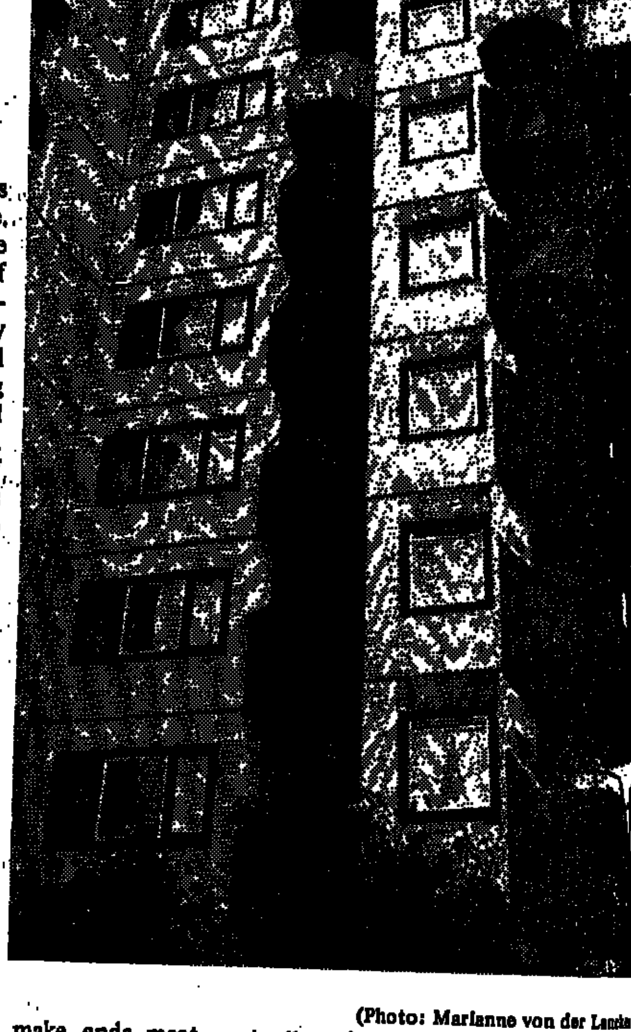
You might just as well attribute tax evasion and breaches of the Monopolies Act to living in detached homes as attribute criminal behaviour in general to living in high-rise housing estates, Herr Jordan says.

The blame for high-rise problems must be laid elsewhere:

The housing estates are too big. Neuperlach, Munich, has a population of 74,000, for instance. When tens of thousands move in virtually simultaneously and none know their way around and there is no-one to ask, they are bound to feel out of place and likely to stay that way.

"Integration" has long been a keyword among modern town planners, but have they ever stopped to think what they envisaged integrating people into?

High-rise dwellers are too much alike. They are usually the same age. Parents of several young children are usually highest on local authority housing allocation lists. Old people are missing. There is no way of tolerating others (there are no "others"). Everyone hails from the lower rungs of the social ladder. There are too few different possibilities of comparison. Children in particular suffer from this lack of variety in their social contacts. Subsidised rents are too high. Tenants usually pay more than they were doing beforehand. The women usually have to go out to work make ends meet. When the women's earnings are a must to keep up with the payments, family life tends to suffer all along the line, and there is no mistaking the stress.



(Photo: Marianne von der Lancken)

"Children are 'key children' and both mentally overtaxed and emotionally disturbed. Parents are overburdened too. Leusure is an unheard-of commodity," says Hamburg educationalist Professor Hans-Joachim Krause.

Apartments are let too soon, before playgrounds, creches, youth centres and schools are ready. The social infrastructure is not there when people move in (which is when they need it most badly).

This missing infrastructure would have relieved substantially the burden on families such as these. They certainly have too little room to do so in their own four walls.

Apartments are too small. More particularly, they lack a room of one's own for each member of the family.

High-rise apartments are also way out of town and often poorly linked with the city centre by public transport. Estate-dwellers feel isolated, cut off, in a self-fulfilling ghetto situation.

If people who live in detached homes of their own (or tenants of apartments in smaller blocks) were to be saddled with so many problems they instead would soon be the scapegoats for urban unrest.

They, of course, need not explain to visitors that "you first pass a block with balconies painted red, then come the yellow balconies" (that would otherwise look as like as peas in a pod).

They have flights of stairs and not just elevators that tend to cut conversations short. Mothers are within earshot of children playing outside.

But the social problems that confront the underprivileged would still be there to face.

Contrived comparison between the proverbially unhappy tenants on the eighth storey and the proverbially happy dwellers in a detached home of their own may seem hard to disprove.

Tenants are clearly worse off than owner-occupiers in so many ways. But how many people have the choice?

Some do, of course. Take the Thöns family in Hamburg. They plumped for a home of their own, but not a house and garden way out of town. For the same amount of money they bought a freehold apartment in a 23-storey block in Altona, within easy distance of the city centre.

Palmaille, their street, is an address to be proud of. Communications are excellent. They have a view of the harbour. Their apartment is roomy.

There are also 150 fellow-occupiers: old folk, young people, singles, couples, families with children. But in all other respects the building is a concrete silo, albeit possibly slightly more attractive than its counterparts on the high-rise housing estates.

"Up here I have a fine view and needn't bother about an unkempt garden that would take up too much time anyway," says Ingeborg Thöns, a mother-of-two who still works in her profession.

"In other respects life is much less complicated this way too. If I am unable to get home on time at midday, the children just visit one of our neighbours when they come home from school.

"There is always someone or other at home to take care of them. The neighbours will always water the flowers when we go away, for that matter."

Facilities used in common, such as the washing machines and airing rooms in the cellar, are well patronised. So are the garden and playground outside and the swimming pool and sauna bath.

"We should never have been able to afford all that by ourselves," Frau Thöns says. "And we give parties too, of course. There is a Fasching party in winter and a summer party in July.

"Nearly everyone joins in, and we also meet once a month to go bowling, play cards and the like." There is a notice-board downstairs that nearly always has

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■ SPORT

Fencer recovers from loss to take world title

Cornelia Hanisch, a 27-year-old Offenbach student, won gold in the women's foil singles at the world fencing championships in Melbourne.

She is her country's first woman world champion since Heidi Schmidt in 1961, winning four out of five bouts in the finals.

Oddly enough, she lost the first bout 5-0 to Ingrid Losert, from Freiburg, who went on to come fourth in the final ratings.

"I do feel sorry for Ingrid, just missing out on a medal like that," the jubilant gold medallist said.

She has certainly had her own share of disappointments in the past. Last year in Hamburg she had to make do with third place after a dramatic play-off.

"I knew I could have gone on to beat them all, yet still only have come sixth," she added after winning the final, decisive fight against Ildiko Schwarzenberger, the Hungarian Olympic gold medallist.

On beating the Hungarian girl 5–4 Frau Hanisch, a temperamental 1.63m (5ft 4in), burst into tears and embraced her equally tearful chief coach, Horst Christian Tell, 43.

But she was all smiles by the time she mounted the rostrum to receive her medal. Defending world champion Valentina Sidorova of the Soviet Union came second and the Hungarian girl third.

Both had three wins and two defeats to their credit, but Mrs Schwarzenberger had the poorer scoring averages.



Cornelia Hanisch

(Photo: Horstmüller)

Freiburg physical education student Ingrid Losert, who came fourth, is still only 20. Two years ago she still had Austrian nationality.

But in her first final bout she knocked spots off Cornelia Hanisch, and she went on to beat former world champion Elena Belova of the Soviet Union 5-4.

It was the first time two German girls had ever reached the world championship finals, and Herr Tell, who has trained the new champion since 1972, said at Monash University, where the championships were held, he was the happiest man in the world.

Until 1963 Herr Tell was a Polish citizen, and he took over as West German coach in the aftermath of Heidi Schmidt and Helga Mees, who was Olympic silver medallist in 1964.

Under his supervision the German girls have made it back to the top. Frau Hanisch, who took up fencing in 1965, had her first major success in 1976 when she came fifth at Montreal.

In 1977 she was runner-up at the world championships with the West German women's team, while last year she came third in the individual event.

Seven years ago she wanted to give fencing up. It was no fun any longer. She felt she would sooner play tennis. But Herr Tell persuaded her to carry on "for just one more year."

It certainly paid off. The two have not always seen eye to eye, but the temperamental student (she is actually now a trainee teacher) and her quiet, thoughtful coach made a good pair.

"To begin with she didn't always want to do to my way," he says. "So I let her have it her own way. But she now realises her way doesn't always work."

Herr Tell does not like to think of himself as deciding matters; he prefers to partner his charges and persuade them to come round to his way.

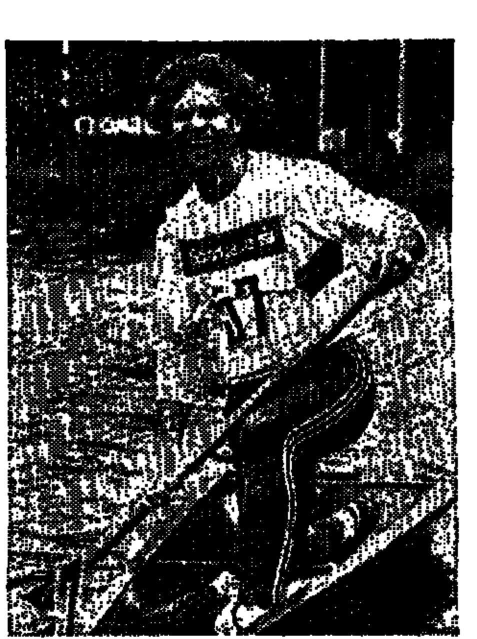
Her showing at last year's world championships in Hamburg undoubtedly paved the way for Melbourne. It was the first time she really had to fight all the way and did not find reaching the finals a virtual walkover.

The Hamburg play-off gave her added self-confidence. She felt sure there was no woman in the world she could not beat with her chosen weapon.

In technique and tactics she was more than a match for them all. Now she is officially the greatest.

sid

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 21 August 1979)



Uli Eicke

(Photo: Schirner)

Canoe medal missed by split second

A mere 400th of a second was the time that cost Uli Eicke a gold medal in the world canoeing championships at Wedau, Duisburg.

Eicke, 27, from Düsseldorf, battled stroke for stroke with the Soviet Union's Sergei Postrekhin before 25,000 spectators to run second by that hair's breadth in the 500-metre single Canadian event.

It was the host country's first medal of the championships. Eicke won silver at Sofia, Bulgaria, two years ago.

The main winners at the Duisburg championships were the East bloc countries. At the time of writing they had won 30 of the 33 medals going in 11 finals.

Apart from Uli Eicke only John Sumegi of Australia (second over 500 metres in the single kayak) and Norwegians Einar Rasmussen and Olaf Soyland (first over 1,000 metres in the Canadian pairs) broke the East bloc stranglehold.

Barbara Schüttpelz, 22, from Essen, was next best as far as the host country was concerned. She came fourth over 500 metres in the women's single Canadian and was unlucky not to win a medal.

But East bloc officials were not all smiles. Soviet 1972 Olympic gold medallist Vladimir Shessiunas, who has several world championship titles to his credit, applied for political asylum.

dpa/sid

(Die Welt, 20 August 1979)

High-rise living

Continued from page 14

news of some communal activity or other.

Life is altogether different for the Sautmanns in Osdorfer Born. They live on the thirteenth floor of their block with their eight-year-old daughter.

Frau Sautmann works for a cleaning company, Herr Sautmann is a messenger. "In the evening I am usually tired out when the apartment is clean and we have eaten supper," she says.

"I usually fall asleep watching TV." She used to live in a four-storey block with only ten families. But she prefers her present home.

"There are no arguments because you are not always meeting each other and hardly know each other in any case. It is more peaceful and quiet, I reckon. In the block we used to live in other people took too much interest in, say, what was in your shopping bag."

This is borne out by Ulfert Herlyn, the author of a survey entitled "Living in an Apartment Block."

There is not much social communication in high-rise blocks on housing estates, but this does not make life anti-social. Most tenants welcome anonymity as an opportunity of living their lives the way they want.

What is surprising about surveys is that criticism of high-rise housing is usually voiced by people who have never lived in an apartment of this kind, whereas people with practical experience are almost always satisfied.

There are many sides to high-rise living. Architects and town planners are not social reformers. They may once have dreamt of planning high-rise homes as an improvement in the quality of life, but these dreams have not been fulfilled.

Yet it would be equally dangerous to blame the high-rise block for social conflict of all kinds.

Hamburg architect Martin Kirchner, a high-rise critic, expects a backlash to come: "It is already clear to see that a time will come when high-rise blocks will be a rarity. Before long we will be looking back at them nostalgically."

Marion Rollin

(Die Zeit, 17 August 1979)